



NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year, Everyone!

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and please accept my very best wishes for the Beekeeping Year to come.

These months are difficult for beekeepers as we do all we can to assist our colonies through Winter. We all know honeybees are hardy creatures. For most of us, the return of Spring heralds a happy time of growth and renewal for the new beekeeping season. Inevitably, some of us experience colony loss.

As part of our ongoing husbandry of these amazing creatures we need to try to understand the causes of these events. So, at our next Club meeting on **Tuesday 10 January from 7.30pm**, we will supplement our first social gathering to with a discussion entitled: **"Winter Colony Loss - Why have my bees died and what should I do?"** The education team will look at ways of conducting a colony 'post mortem' to gather information on why that colony had died and the things that can be done to mitigate future losses. If time allows there will be a live demonstration on how to test for Nosema. We look forward to seeing you for a catch up. Suggestions for topics for our February Club meeting and future gatherings are always welcome too!

Best wishes

Stuart Gendall

Chair, EBKA

News from the Apiary Shop

Congratulations to our very own Apiary Shop Manager, **Helen Woodward** on the publication of her article in this month's **BBKA News** (Issue 230, January 2023, p29). Helen describes she has applied her past

FEATURE



Being an Apiary Shop Manager

By Helen Worwood, Epsom Apiary Shopkeeper,
Epsom BKA

The Epsom BKA shop team from left to right: Jenny, Kate, Helen, Sofia, Linda and Diane. Photo: Nick Fry.

Tet me start this article by firstly saying that I did not set up the Epsom BKA Shop. It was started by beekeepers many types of tenders you take. When I started, we took cash and cheque only. There is nothing wrong with either of those today, but it is

experience in retail management to grow and maintain an apiary store for the benefit of members and the public. Full of interesting advice the article is a good read and a very nice dash of PR for Epsom Beekeepers. If your post man hasn't delivered it yet ... or you've put your copy in a "safe" place ... you can

read Helen's article by accessing the [BBKA News](#) website (you'll need your BBKA membership number).

Helen and the Shop Team are working hard to help you with all the items you may need during the Winter months. Despite the recent mild weather, the Queens will be at their lowest laying rate or may indeed have stopped laying altogether around the winter solstice. This means midwinter is the perfect time to treat bees by sublimating or dribbling **Apibioxal** (the approved version of Oxalic acid).

Our shop is selling 35g packs of Apibioxal (enough for 10 treatments) for £13.50. So, if you want to treat then please arrange to purchase on either Saturday 14 or 28 January.

We also have good stocks of **Formicpro** the formic acid based Varroa treatment. It is less temperature sensitive – recommended use is whilst temperatures are about 10°C for first 3 – 5 days of treatment. So, if the weather remains mild this gives a good alternative to treat during January and February before colonies really start building up into spring

During January the shop will be open as follows:

- Tuesday 10 January - from 7pm (before meeting - no appointment needed)
- Saturday 14 January - by appointment from 11:30am
- Saturday 28 January - by appointment from 11:30am

All orders (we accept card /phone app or BACS transfer) should be emailed to shop@epsombeekers.co.uk before 8am on morning of the relevant Saturday and you will be given the next available 10-minute pick up slot. Please do everything you can to stick to the time given. This enables us to manage the flow of customers in and out of the shop keeping everyone as distanced as we can.

If you do not have an agreed pick-up slot - please do not come to the Apiary. When coming to collect purchases, please:

- Wear a face mask / covering
- Use the hand sanitiser provided on entry to our premises
- Maintain a 2m distance from our volunteers and other customers.

COVID GUIDELINES

Government guidelines at the time of writing remain quite relaxed but there is increasing concern about a surge of COVID/ flu, so please do not come to the apiary if you have any symptoms of being unwell, such as;

- High temperature / fever
- New, persistent cough
- Loss of sense of smell/taste

Making good use of your beeswax

If you couldn't come to our club Christmas candle dipping event why not take up the forthcoming opportunity from **Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association**. In early February the association is hosting a series of daily Demonstration Events entitled "Making good use of your beeswax".

Held on **Saturday 11, Sunday 12 and Monday 13 February** the self-contained, daily events will showcase products that can be made with small quantities of beeswax using minimal equipment that is in most kitchens. The host - **Jim Ryan** from Thurles, Co Tipperary - "an amusing demonstrator, with an 'Irish way' "- will show the audience how to make such things as furniture polish, furniture cream, lip balm, skin cream, moisture bars, soap, etc. If time permits, he will also look at using honey in recipes – honey lip balm, honey soap, etc. There may also be some alternative recipes that do not contain nut oils.

Judging by the success similar events hosted by Jim in previous years, the WGBKA are expecting the daily demonstrations to be very popular.

Places are limited and an early booking (Monday is recommended first choice) is essential. The venue is Hampers Green Centre, Petworth. West Sussex. GU28 9NL. The demonstrations start at 9.30am and finish



no later than 4.30pm. The cost is £15 - book online at <https://wgbka-beeswax-workshop-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>.

For further enquiries visit the WGBKA website www.wgbka.co.uk or email Roger Patterson roger-patterson@btconnect.com.

Zoe's back in training to raise funds for Epsom Bees



With just over three weeks to go, our intrepid fundraiser, Zoe Kingham, is getting back into training. Zoe is hoping to run a half-marathon in two hours to raise vital funds for our club.

The big event is taking place at Crystal Palace on **29 January** and Zoe has started the new year with renewed determination. "As much as I wanted to keep training over Christmas, I ended up catching that horrible cold/flu that's been going round," she says. "So, I did absolutely nothing but recovering!

"I am getting back to it this week though - and I'll do a long run this coming Sunday."

"If the weather's horrible, then I'll go to the gym and do an hour's treadmill run instead - and it's either a straightforward 10k or I do interval training runs instead. I've raised £150 so far with my target being £250 so only £100 left. It's not long to go at all! So, fingers crossed."

You can keep up with Zoe's progress and sponsor her and Epsom Beekeepers by visiting [Zoe's Just Giving Fundraising Page](#).

Good luck, Zoe!

Beekeeping Experience Days

Do you know anyone interested in taking up beekeeping? If so, please suggest they try one of our popular Beekeeping Experience Days.

A mixture of classroom theory and hands-on instruction, each Experience Day seeks to provide an overview of the lifecycle and craft of keeping a colony of honeybees - giving participants a 'taste' of the commitments, equipment, costs and knowledge required before starting.

This year, our team of volunteers is running two Experience days on **Sunday 21 May** and **Sunday 11 June** respectively. The cost of the day inclusive of refreshments and provision of protective bee suit is £80.

You'll find more information on our website epsombeekeepers.co.uk/courses/.

There are places still available. To book a place email info@epsombeekeepers.co.uk.

Many of those who attend our Experience Days have taken up membership of our Club and gone on to attend our comprehensive Theory and Practical Courses held at the Upper Mill Apiary.

Our 2023 Courses are fully booked.

Please Note: We start this year's **Beginners Theory Course** on **Thursday 19 January**.

