

Dear Member

I am writing this from beautiful, sunny Yorkshire! Not many honeybees where we are staying in Middleham but lots of sheep! There is however a very large copper beech tree nearby which is absolutely covered with bumble bees - the sound is almost deafening - and they seem to be feeding on the sticky, sugary sap that the leaves produce!

We visited RHS Harlow Carr yesterday where there used to be a glass observation hive located in the garden but that has now gone - colonies must still be housed somewhere on the site as the bees were out in full force on the flowers!

Hopefully your supers are filling now - the temperature is reaching peak wax building point and the nectar will be coming in to fill the comb!

Host A Hive

We have been approached by a member of the public in Hersham who is wanting to 'host a hive' in their garden. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Helen on info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk.

This is a partnership that can work very well for both 'hoster' and the beekeeper but just to remind you that it is very important to place gentle, low swarming colonies in gardens to minimise possible altercations.

Taster Days

We held two Taster days on consecutive Sundays recently and in total 32 'would be beekeepers' had a day of theory and practical training. As ever the bees performed well - issuing a swarm at just the right moment for all to watch and settling in the apple tree for us to collect and re home in the afternoon!

We have received excellent feedback from attendees regarding the quality of their experience and my thanks go to all involved.

The Classroom Floor

We have now received all the quotations back for work to cut out the classroom floor, underpin the building and replace with a new solid, well insulated floor to provide a firm, level foundation.

[The committee are meeting on June 5th to finalise the works, confirm the contractor and organise a start date \(at the end of the season\).](#)

We will report back in the next newsletter.

Tuesday Evening Topics

We will continue to work through the Basic Assessment syllabus on Tuesday evenings and I have attached the programme again for the remaining weeks.

Over the next 5 meetings we will focus on health and disease and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend this important topic.

Tuesday June 6th

4.1 able to describe the appearance of healthy brood, sealed and unsealed

4.2 aware of the reasons for good apiary hygiene

4.3 aware of the reasons for regular brood comb replacement

3.5 able to describe the signs of laying workers and of a drone laying queen

David Dowson

I would like to say a huge thank you to David Dowson for cutting the apiary grass and being an active member of the association for the many years. David has recently completed a bee venom desensitisation programme but has decided not to risk being stung so is hanging up his bee suit for good.

Beginners Practical Course

The Beginners group and tutors continue to attend to their colonies and are doing an amazing job - our thanks go to all involved. Let us hope we get some honey!

Loseley Park

We recently asked for members to attend the Loseley Park Garden Show on Saturday 29th July to sell their and/or any association honey and man the stall. If you would like to be involved please contact Helen on info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk

Garden Party

Martha Kearney and Bill Turnbull invite you to join them at this year's Bee Garden Party: 5-8pm on Thursday 29 June in the private gardens of Marlborough House, in London's Mall. It will be a fun evening, focused on bees, with gin-fizz, wines and delightful food. A wonderful opportunity to meet beekeeping friends. With kind permission from the household of HM The Queen, and in the presence of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland. Raising funds to support the Charity Bees for Development. Tickets are £50 and available here [BBKA events](#) and here [Bee Garden Party](#), or call 01600 714848 to book. Special rates for BBKA groups - please call.

Hoping to see you there!

Tuesday 2nd May

- 3.1 able to give an elementary description of swarming in a honeybee colony
- 3.2 able to give an elementary account of one method of swarm control
- 3.3 able to describe how to take a honeybee swarm and how to hive it
- 3.4 able to describe the signs of a queenless colony and how to test if a colony is queenless
- 3.6 able to describe a simple method of queen introduction
- 3.7 able to describe one method of uniting colonies and precautions to be taken

Tuesday 9th May

- 1.10 remove combs from the hive and identify worker, drone and queen cells or cups if present, and to comment on the state of the combs
- 1.11 identify the female castes and the drone
- 1.12 identify brood at all stages
- 1.13 demonstrate the difference between drone, worker and honey cappings
- 2.1 able to give an elementary account of the development of queens, workers and drones in the honeybee colony
- 2.2 able to state the periods spent by the female castes and the drone in the four stages of their life (egg, larva, pupa and adult)
- 2.6 able to give an elementary description of the way in which the honeybee colony passes the winter

Tuesday 16th

- 1.18 name and explain the function of the principal parts of a modern beehive
- 1.19 discuss the concept of the bee space and its significance in the modern beehive
- 1.21 discuss spacing of the combs in the brood chamber and super for both foundation and drawn comb and methods used to achieve this spacing
- 2.12 aware of the need to add supers and the timing of the operation
- 1.5 the need for stores
- 2.11 able to describe the preparation of sugar syrup and how and when to feed bees
- 2.13 aware of the dangers of robbing and how robbing can be avoided

Tuesday May 23rd

- 2.7 able to give an elementary description of how to set up an apiary
- 2.8 able to describe what precautions should be taken to avoid the honeybees being a nuisance to neighbours and livestock
- 2.10 able to give an elementary description of the annual cycle of work in the apiary
- 1.1 the care needed when handling a colony of honeybees
- 1.2 the reactions of honeybees to smoke
- 1.3 the personal equipment needed to open a colony of honeybees and the importance of its cleanliness
- 1.4 the reasons for opening a colony
- 1.6 the importance of record keeping
- 2.9 able to describe the possible effects of honeybee stings on humans and able to recommend suitable first aid treatment

Tuesday May 30th May

- 2.3 able to name the main local flora from which honeybees gather pollen and nectar
- 2.4 able to give a simple definition of nectar and a simple description of how it is collected, brought back to the hive and is converted into honey
- 2.5 able to give a simple description of the collection and use of pollen, water and propolis in the honeybee colony
- 2.14 able to describe a method used to clear honeybees from supers
- 2.15 able to describe the process of extracting honey from combs and a method of straining and bottling of honey suitable for a small scale beekeeper, including hygiene

Tuesday June 6th

- 4.1 able to describe the appearance of healthy brood, sealed and unsealed
- 4.2 aware of the reasons for good apiary hygiene
- 4.3 aware of the reasons for regular brood comb replacement
- 3.5 able to describe the signs of laying workers and of a drone laying queen

Tuesday June 13th

- 4.4 able to describe the signs of the bacterial diseases American Foul Brood (AFB) and European Foul Brood (EFB), the fungal disease Chalk Brood and the viral disease Sac brood
- 4.8 aware of the current legislation regarding notifiable diseases and pests of honeybees
- 4.9 aware of whom to contact to verify disease and advise on treatment
- 2.16 aware of the various web based resources relating to beekeeping such as the BBKA and Beebase

Tuesday June 20th

4.5 able to describe methods for detecting and monitoring the presence of varroa (a mite) and describe its effect on the colony including awareness of the effect of associated viruses

4.7 able to describe ways of controlling varroa using integrated pest management techniques

Tuesday 27th June

4.10 able to describe how comb can be stored to prevent wax moth damage

4.11 able to describe how mice and other pests can be excluded from the hives in winter

4.6 aware of acarine (a mite) and nosema (a fungus) and their effect upon the colony

Tuesday July 4th **Practical – bring clean suit!**

1.15 take a sample of worker bees in a match box or similar container

1.16 state the number of worker bees required for an adult disease diagnosis sample

1.17 demonstrate how to shake bees from a comb and how to look for signs of brood disease

1.10 remove combs from the hive and identify worker, drone and queen cells or cups if present, and to comment on the state of the combs

Tuesday July 11th **Practical – bring clean suit!**

Lighting a smoker

Using the hive tools

Standard inspection

Tuesday July 18th

Recap etc ahead of Basic Assessment

