



Reigate Beekeepers

BeeNews

April 2014



Photo opportunity of the Month



High Density Hives !!

Not to be recommended if you are seeking the ideal hive layout for your apiary, but this photograph of bee hives in Perth, Western Australia illustrates the real difference about commercial beekeeping in Australia. Where they transport their bees across the country, often moving many times each year, and they stack them high to maximise a particular forage location...must really confuse the bees!!

We are always seeking further striking, unusual, topical, or just interesting bee related images to feature each month, so if you have any.....

Please send them to the [BeeNews](#) editors today!

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event / Description	Venue / Contact
Apr, Wed 2 nd	First 2014 Summer Apiary Meeting (18:30 - 20:00)	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Apr, 4 th - 6 th	BBKA Spring Convention (Friday- Sunday) Book lectures and accommodation On-Line	Harper Adams Uni. Newport, Shropshire
Apr, Mon 7 th	Meridian BKA Open Lecture (19:15 - 20:15) Talk by Dr Jay Evans on Beenomics	Bishops Waltham nina.jetten@btinternet.com
Apr, Wed's 9 th , 16 th & 23 rd	Summer Apiary Meetings (18:30 - 20:00)	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Apr, Sat 26 th	West Sussex BKA Annual Bee Market & Auction details at www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/auction	Brinsbury, Pulborough
Apr, Wed 30 th	Summer Apiary Meeting (18:30 - 20:00)	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
May, Sat 3 rd	Reigate Beekeepers Auction (11:00 - 14:00) Submit surplus equipment and bid for needed equipment.	Mickleham Apiary Andy Robinson
May, Sat 3 rd	Reigate Spring Bee Health Clinic (11:00 - 15:00) Submit samples of bees for Adult Bee Disease assessment.	Mickleham Village Hall Bob Maurer
May, Mon 5 th	Lower Kingswood Village Fete RBK Stall - some assistance may be appreciated.	Lower Kingswood Contact tba
May, Mon 5 th	Buckland May Fair RBK Stall - some assistance may be appreciated.	Buckland Contact tba
May, Wed 7 th	Summer Apiary Meeting (18:30 - 20:00)	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
May, Sun 11 th	Cowpie Country Show (from 10:00am) RBK Stall - some assistance may be appreciated.	Blindley Heath, Lingfield Eddie Webster
More dates?	The Members website has the full year's Diary Dates	Click Here

Comments about and contributions for publication in [BeeNews](#) will be welcomed by the editors.

For inclusion in an edition, contributions are required by the 25th of the preceding month.



A Flying Start

Hopefully you were fortunate enough to have colonies going into Winter and surviving the late December & January storms, and have been supplementing their own stores if necessary. If so, then you have probably already seen lots of activity outside and inside the hives. But remember, that just as the bees don't read the Beekeeping books we do, neither do they necessarily heed dates in a calendar when deciding what to do next.

So with this generally dryer and warmer weather, they are already off to a flying start; brood rearing, foraging ... and turning their collective consciousness to thoughts of swarming.

This month, we include a timely message from the Swarm Team to 'Bee Prepared'. And although the bees may pay it no attention, a calendar of some key apiary activities throughout the year is included that may help the newer beekeepers read ahead about what's next! And for when you are not tending to your bees, your attention is drawn to activities aplenty to prepare for, or take part in local shows; promoting beekeeping, competing for trophies, and selling Honey. Once again we also present a selection of off-beat, topical and informative articles drawn from the wider world of beekeeping.

What we have not been able to do, due to our own publishing deadlines and space, is to include anything (other than in this brief editorial) about some late breaking news.

As the training meetings at our apiary are about to commence, Education Coordinator, **Andrew Cornwall**, has revised and is issuing 'The Reigate Way - Notes for Hive Tutors', and has also produced a schedule of how the syllabus will be delivered each week by the tutors in 'Basic Themes per Week'. 'Basic Study Notes' are also being provided.

All these documents will be able to be found in a brand NEW section in the top menu of the Members website ... **EDUCATION**.

Richard & Graham

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Our website is updated much more regularly than this monthly edition of **BeeNews**, so click on [Members Website](#) for lots more information and, all the latest news and activity updates.

Reigate Beekeepers

MEMBERS



Henfold Ready *by Andrew Buchanan* **Appeal for Help** *by Andrew Buchanan*

Saturday 15th March started dry but with a rather cloudy sky! Half an hour before the appointed hour for the start of the Tidy Up Day, about 10 members had already arrived eager to get going. By 10:00 o'clock there were 34 and by 10:30am there were 45, all busy with the long list of jobs which needed doing; together with 12 attendees of our Beginners Course eager to look into a hive for the 1st time.

Teams were made up to 'specialise' in carrying out such tasks as planting 93 trees and 10 roses bushes, pruning the hedgerows planted 3 years ago, sowing grass seed along the 'Causeway' across the paddock, clearing all the debris from the winter storms, having a bonfire, tidying up the containers, assessing the bees in all the hives, allocating equipment for each hive station to name just a few! And the sun came out from behind those clouds to join in as well.



The photograph shows who gave their time, effort and enthusiasm. Too many to name everyone. However, the exercise was made a lot easier with the help of the team leaders – **Andrew Cornwall, Roy Cottington, Richard Stuart,** and **Mike Welch.** Also, the whole event was made even more special by the efforts of **Coral Lloyd** who, as usual, provided tea, coffee and homemade biscuits and by **Rob** and **Pauline Sparkes** who surprised us all by donating plates of salmon salad, loads of sausages and rolls.

All in all, a great response to my plea for help, a fantastic amount of work done and lots of fun.

On behalf of all the members who were unable to join in and all those who visit Henfold Copse during the Summer:

Well done and thank you all very much indeed.

Is anybody out there willing to help with the following?

First Aid

As the number of visitors to Henfold Copse each Wednesday evening during the 2013 Summer Season was just under 60, it became apparent that a 'First Aider' should be available on site each week.

Currently **Pauline Sparkes** is our only First Aider and is unable to attend every session. Consequently, RBKA is looking for someone to join Pauline.

Anyone interested, qualified or not (RBKA will fund a course to enable qualification), please contact me, **Andrew Buchanan.**

Refreshments

From 1st June until 30th September this year, **Coral Lloyd** will be unable to look after our refreshments. Anyone who would like to be responsible for procuring tea, coffee and biscuits each Wednesday evening during this period (costs will be reimbursed), please contact me, **Andrew Buchanan.**

Tel 01306 712773

Email andrewb38@btinternet.com

Please Leave a Comment

[Click to comment on this item](#)

Out Apiary Site Offer *by Maggie Minter*

The owner of a house with an orchard that has in previous times been used to locate hives, is offering a Reigate Beekeeper member the opportunity to reintroduce bees to their site.

Jo Marshall describes the site as a lovely rural area south of Dorking, along Coldharbour Lane RH4 3JG. The site should be suitable for at least a few hives to start with ... then see how it goes - and Jo is happy to discuss further.

Contact details can be provided upon application to me [Click Here.](#)

Do also check the complete list of Out Apiary Offers on the website [Click Here.](#)

Maggie



Show Time - opportunities & requests to Compete & Help

Shows, Fairs and Fetes in the coming months provide opportunities for members to enter into Honey Competitions or participate as volunteer assistants; variously setting up stalls, talking to the public about beekeeping or selling the divisions and members honey etc.

Fuller details are, or will be, available via the Members website, but these are the upcoming events that you could be preparing or volunteering for now ...

Surrey County Honey Show, 26th May

A Spring Bank Holiday event at Stoke Park, Guildford.

A **Free** admission ticket for every 5 Honey Show entries per exhibitor, and **Free** admission provided for volunteers helping as stewards in the Bee Tent during the day (with 2 hours **Free** time to go round the show plus time for the **Free** lunch).

The Honey Show Competition Class details and Entry form is available - [click here](#).

Entry forms requested **by 26th April** please.

Late Entries required **by 12th May** latest.

The Bee Tent Steward Application form is available - [click here](#). Chief Steward, Michael Main, requests **applications by 28th April**.

For fuller details, [click here](#).

South of England Show, 5-6th June

The Honey Show entries secretary for the Bees & Honey section of this annual event at Ardingly, West Sussex is our very own **Pauline Sparkes**, who invites members to participate in the competition, either individually, in groups or as a division.

Schedule of Classes & Prize List, [click here](#).
Honey Entry Form, [click here](#).

Entry forms requested **by 13th April** please.

Late Entries required **by 11th May** latest.

For fuller details, [click here](#).

Fayres, Fairs, Fetes and Village Shows

There is a growing list of events where Reigate Beekeepers will be represented this summer promoting Beekeeping and selling Honey etc.

A complete list is being maintained on the Public website ... to advise potential customers of where we will be! [Click here](#). The events are also listed in our on-line calendar, [Diary Dates](#).

Maybe there is an event close to where you live. If you would like to offer your assistance for any of these events, please contact **Mike Hill** in the first instance to find out what help might be needed, [click here](#).

Competition Frame - for our 2014 Honey Show

by *Celia Perry*

Each year in October RBKA holds a Honey Show. This has various classes in which people can exhibit their honey, candles and other products of the hive. One of the classes is for a Competition Frame and you need to be thinking about this NOW.

You buy a super frame and sheet of foundation for £2 from the apiary on a Wednesday night. The top bar of the frame will be signed by **Maggie Bourne** to authenticate it. No charge if the frame is for an RBKA hive. You make up the frame, put it in a super in your hive at home or in your class hive at the RBKA apiary and let the bees do all the hard work.

The heaviest frame entered in the Competition Frame class at the Honey Show in October wins.

What could be simpler? A word of warning though – if there is tie for heaviest frame, the winner will be decided on how the frame looks. Frames will be available from me or **Maggie Bourne** at Henfold Copse **from Wednesday 17th April** onwards, on a strictly cash-on-delivery basis.

Just remember the top bar of the frame must be signed by **Maggie Bourne** before you put it in the hive or it will be rejected by the Judge. No-one else can sign the frame.

Further Honey Show information will be in **BeeNews** and the Members website later in the Summer.

Celia



Bee Prepared to Receive a Swarm ... now

from the *Swarm Team*



Indicators point towards EARLY activity on the swarm front this year. The mild Winter allowed queens to recommence laying early, if indeed they had ever ceased. Colony increases are well in hand, with drone brood and even emerging drones being found by mid March. All of which means that the Swarm Collecting Team, coordinated by Richard Woodhouse, expect to be busy VERY soon; responding to phone calls from the public.

Are you keen to receive a captured swarm from the Swarm Team? Whether to start your Beekeeping, or to maybe replace a colony lost last year or over-winter. If so, you need to have a Swarm Box ready and get your name on the Swarm Registration List ... now.

Full details about registering and preparing a box [to our requirements](#), are included in the website's Knowledge Base. Go to 'The Swarm Collection' articles ... now. [Click here](#).

Horticultural News

Plant a Wild Flower Meadow

Surprisingly you don't need much space, only a few square metres can be sufficient to benefit our bees and other pollinating insects. And it can be much easier than you think - so why not consider planting an area of wild flowers in your garden ?

Wildflower meadows are an alternative to lawns and borders, and can provide a display for many months. Choose from annual meadows that provide a one-off show or perennial meadows that persist from year to year.

Seeds are available for various soil types and locations, shade, hedgerows, or full sun. Wild flowers actually prefer poor soils, and with specially selected seeds even areas of grass can be transformed into a veritable smorgasbord for insects.

Now is the time to plant - March/April and September being the usual recommendations.

Steve Alton formerly of the Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, gave a really stimulating talk about the benefit of wild flowers at the recent Surrey Bee day. With his wife Karen, an entomologist, he runs a company called 'FlowerScapes' who specialise in wild life gardens and can supply specially developed seed mixes. For more information [click here](#).

Other suppliers of seeds are also available, and there is plenty of advice about preparing, planting and maintaining wild flowers in your garden. The RHS advice is particularly good [click here](#).

The annual seeds, if planted now, should appear in the first year, and the perennials take more time, so expect a year or two before you will achieve the full benefit.

It may also not be as expensive as you think, and besides the gratitude of the insects just think of the grass that you will no longer need to mow.

I've hired a rotovator to turn over part of my existing lawn area to create a wild flower meadow area in my garden. I will be planting in April and will update on how it progresses.



Wild flower meadow habitats have decreased by 97% since the 1930's. So wouldn't it be good if the local highway authorities could be persuaded to stop cutting roadside verges, (except where visibility is required), and plant them with a sprinkle of suitable seeds to allow the wild flowers to grow !!

Graham Pooley

Please Leave a Comment

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How Honey Combs Can Build Themselves

*This international journal of science 'Nature' article, spotted by **Eva Dembinska**, suggests it may be physical forces rather than bees' ingenuity that create hexagonal cells in comb.*

The perfect hexagonal array of bees' honeycombs, admired for millennia as an example of natural pattern formation, owes more to simple physical forces than to the skill of bees, according to a new study.



Engineer Bhushan Karihaloo at the University of Cardiff, UK, and his co-workers say that bees simply make cells that are circular in cross section and are packed together like a layer of bubbles. According to their research, which appears in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface, the wax, softened by the heat of the bees' bodies, then gets pulled into hexagonal cells by surface tension at the junctions where three walls meet.

This finding feeds into a long-standing debate about whether the honeycomb is an example of exquisite biological engineering or blind physics.

A regular geometric array of identical cells with simple polygonal cross sections can take only

one of three forms: triangular, square or hexagonal. Of these, hexagons divide up the space using the smallest wall area, and thus, for a honeycomb, the least wax.

This economy was noted in the 4th century AD by the mathematician Pappus of Alexandria, who contended that the bees had "a certain geometrical forethought". But in the 17th century, the Danish mathematician Erasmus Bartholin suggested that the insects need no such forethought. He said that hexagons would result automatically from the pressure of each bee trying to make its cell as large as possible, much as the pressure of bubbles packed in a single layer creates a hexagonal foam.

In 1917, the Scottish zoologist D'Arcy Thompson argued, again by analogy with bubbles, that surface tension in the soft wax will pull the cell walls into hexagonal, threefold junctions. A team led by Christian Pirk, then at the University of Würzburg in Germany, showed in 2004 that molten wax poured into the space between a regular hexagonal array of cylindrical rubber bungs does indeed retract into hexagons as it cools and hardens.

For further information and to read the full article please [click here](#).

The Two Phases of the Varroa Mites Life Cycle

Phase 1 - the Phoretic stage.

During which mites ride on adult workers or drones. At the same time they are feeding on blood (hemolymph) from bees, usually from the inter-segmental membrane on the abdomen. The phoretic stage lasts about 5-11 days when there is brood in the colony.

Mites are forced to remain phoretic if there is no brood, and this can last 5 - 6 months in cold climates. Mites often change hosts (hopping from one bee to another), and this contributes to transmission of various viruses, by injection in another bee during feeding.

Mites experience higher mortality during the phoretic stage, because they make mistakes, and fall to the screen bottom; get bitten by workers during grooming; or die due to old age.

The 'natural drop' on a screened bottom board

reflects a combination of all of these factors. However, the total of these fallen mites are less than 20% of the population. Therefore, using a bottom-screen-board alone will reduce, but not eliminate the need for other IPM techniques.

During the phoretic stage mites transfer horizontally to other colonies. Either by being accidentally dropped onto flowers and then picked up by other foragers, or by mite-carrying bees drifting to another colony, or finally by bees robbing a colony dying from mite infestation.

This last situation causes selection of mites with high virulence, because normally mites that kill a colony will also die with their host, but with robbing behaviour the successful transfer of mites from the dying colony to another is guaranteed. (Another very good reason to avoid robbing behaviour).



Phase 2 - the Reproductive stage.

Only during this time is it possible for mites to increase their population. This occurs only under the capped brood cell. Mature female mites are already mated when they emerge, as bees emerge from the cell.

The varroa mite invades a host (worker or drone larvae) cell just prior to the cell being capped. Once inside, she will hide in the brood food in an upside-down position (viewed from the top of the cell). Mites have special appendages called 'peritremes' (essentially as snorkelling tubes) that help them breathe.

Shortly after a cell is capped, the larva inside will spin a cocoon, and then become a prepupa. The mite will not feed until about five hours after the cell is capped, (after spinning is done), and the first egg is laid 70 hours after cell capping. The first egg is not fertilized, and becomes a male. This is the same as in honey bees, as both organisms have a 'haplodiploidy' sex determination mechanism, where males are haploid (having no father) and females are diploid (having both parents).

After this, approximately every thirty hours, the mite lays a female egg. If the mother mite

was not mated properly, then all of her offspring will be males. A total of five (on worker pupae), or six eggs (on drone pupae), can be laid in a capped cell. However, worker bees will emerge about eleven days after capping, and drones fourteen days; but a daughter mite takes six days to mature. Therefore, most of these eggs do not have time to develop into adults, (6 + 70 hrs delay in egg laying + 1 day for first egg as male = 10 days, leaving only 1 daughter time to mature).

The males and the unsclerotized (white) females, who are not fully developed, all die shortly due to dehydration after a cell is opened, (after bee emergence, or uncapping by hygienic bees). Therefore only the mature, tanned female mites, but not most nymph stages and males, are seen by beekeepers.

Males will mate with a female repeatedly to result in a total of about 35 spermatozoa inside the female spermatheca.

For further information and to read the full article by Zachary Huang, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University please [click here](#).

About those Other Bees

an occasional feature looking at the honey bees' cousins

Honey Wasps

Apparently not only bees can produce honey. *Brachygastra mellifica*, commonly known as the Mexican Honey Wasp also produces honey.

It is a small Neotropical paper wasp that is distributed from southern Texas and extreme southeastern Arizona in the United States south through Mexico and Central America.



The specific name means 'honey-making', and this species is well known as one of the very few insects other than bees to produce and store honey. It is a dark wasp with some yellow bands on the abdomen, and very fine, slightly shining golden-brown pubescence on the body. The nests are constructed out of paper, placed among the branches of trees and shrubs, and measure 40–50 cm in diameter when mature, with ten or more layers of horizontal honeycombed cells within the outer envelope.

Many of the empty cells on the periphery of the nest are used to store honey that the wasps produce by concentrating nectar, in much the same fashion our familiar honey bees. The honey is fed to the wasp larvae, and is their primary, if not sole, food source (adults have been observed capturing insect prey, which is typical behaviour for paper wasps).

Nests are founded by swarms, also somewhat similar to honey bees, but the swarms contain multiple queens, as do the mature nests. There can be several thousand workers in a mature nest, and workers are somewhat aggressive; the sting is barbed, yet another feature convergent with honey bees.

The honey produced by these wasps is consumed by humans, though the nectar from certain common plants (e.g., *Datura*) can result in the honey being toxic.

Please Leave a Comment

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New Beekeeping Experiences

Key Events in a Beekeeping Year

As a new beekeeper it may be valuable to have a calendar that overviews the year and highlights key events, so that you are aware of them and know you need to plan and prepare.

The following is a typical example - many of which have been extracted from the 'Monthly Tips' which we feature on the members website; [click here](#) for this months' tips.

January	Heft Hives and Feed Fondant Treat Varroa with Oxalic Acid
February	Heft Hives and Feed Fondant
March	Feed weaker colonies with syrup If suspected treat for Nosema Construct and prepare hive equipment
April	Change Comb - consider Bailey Change or Shook Swarm Spring Clean - change floors, brood box, and crown board Feed weaker colonies with syrup Start checking weekly for Queen Cells Monitor varroa drop count, dust frames with icing sugar if high. Participate in Spring Bee Clinic Add first Super over a replaced Queen Excluder
May	Feed syrup if foraging is poor Check weekly for Queen Cells Monitor varroa drop count, dust frames with icing sugar if high. Manage to prevent Swarming Extract Oil Seed Rape Honey
June	Feed syrup if foraging is poor Check weekly for Queen Cells Monitor varroa drop count, dust frames with icing sugar if high. Manage to prevent Swarming Mark Queens
July	Add Supers Monitor varroa drop count, dust frames with icing sugar if high.
August	Extract Honey Cull and Replace Old Queens Participate in Autumn Bee Clinic
September	Treat for varroa when supers removed Feed syrup after varroa treatment Unite to restore weaker colonies
October	Remove Queen Excluder Prepare for Winter - ventilation, mouse guards, woodpecker protection Clean and repair equipment
November	Complete winter feeding
December	Check hives for weather damage Order new equipment for next season

Obviously this cannot be an exhaustive list of all beekeeping activities and events during the year, and depending on many factors, inc. the weather, the timing of events may vary.

It is only intended as a general guide, and comments from both new and experienced beekeepers would be appreciated to improve the calendar.

Graham Pooley

Please Leave a Comment

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Please send your questions and queries to the editors and we will seek out an answer or explanation to publish in a future issue.

Question - What is a Bailey Change ?

The 'Bailey Frame Change' is a manipulation used to replace old or diseased comb. It was originally proposed and publicised by Lesley Bailey, the Rothamsted expert on bee diseases.

The general recommendation is that you should not use comb for more than three years - some beekeepers suggest you replace a third of your frames each year.

Other methods of changing all the frames can be used such as the Shook Swarm, (which will be featured in next months edition of [BeeNews](#)).

Although not as inherently cleansing as the Shook Swarm the following approach to a Bailey Change is more fastidious than Bailey's original description.

As mentioned, part of the intention of this manipulation is an improvement in cleanliness of the hive in general, so any hive part that can be removed and replaced with a freshly cleaned one will be of benefit and reduce the virus load.

Many instructions start by saying change the hive floor for a fresh one, but it may be preferable to go further and change it at the start of the process and again at the end, when the old brood chamber is removed.

Some beekeepers also recommend that you start by removing any unoccupied frames and centralise the remaining frames in your brood chamber. Then place a dummy board on either side of these frames. (If you have sufficient dummy boards, fill the box with these).

Stage (1)

Prepare a clean brood box filled with frames of foundation. Place this box over the existing brood chamber. Take this opportunity to use a fresh crown board. Feed with winter strength sugar syrup of constituents 650 ml of water to 1 kilogram of sugar.

Stage (2)

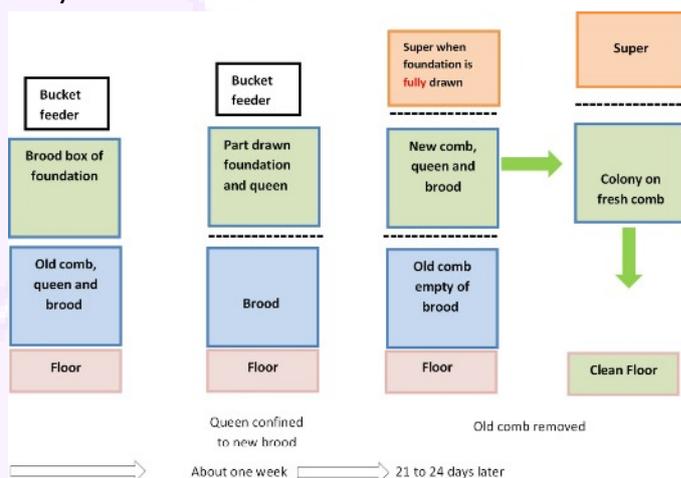
One or two weeks later, when the bees should have drawn out some of the foundation in the upper box, find the queen and place her on this comb. Introduce a queen excluder between the

two boxes, thus trapping the queen in the upper chamber. If possible arrange a new hive entrance between the two brood boxes, (not really possible with a WBC hive), and close off the old entrance. This stops the returning foragers crossing the old comb, and helps reduce the pollen stored in these combs. Ensure that adequate feed is still available.

Stage (3)

After a further three weeks the brood in the lower box will have hatched, and you can remove the old box and frames.

Finally, if you wish move the hive to one side and place a fresh stand, floor and brood chamber on the old site, then transfer the upper box frames, one by one, in the sequence that they were in.



In a few weeks the bees will build up rapidly.

The best time to do the manipulation is in early Spring when the brood nest is about to be expanded. It will take around five to six weeks for the full comb change process.

Graham Pooley

For more details [click here](#) to see the National Bee Unit Leaflet on Replacing old Brood Comb.

Also listed under 'Best Practice Guides' in our website's Knowledge Base, [click here](#)

Please Leave a Comment

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All New Items on the Members Website

The Members website is regularly updated and added too. If you have not visited the site and browsed since the last **BeeNews** was published, these are some items that may be new to you.

Catch-up now ... **click on the items to view in full.**

April in the Apiary



April usually signals the start of the new beekeeping year as the colony transitions from winter survival to colony renewal and growth.

However, following the mild March we have experienced, many colonies are already well into their "growth" phase. April weather can be highly variable and may impact...

National Pollinator Strategy



The Government has now launched a public consultation on the proposed strategy.

In this message from Dr David Aston, individual beekeepers (and associations) are urged to respond to the questions asked in the consultation by the 2nd May and to tell David when you have sent in a response.

Auction + Bee Clinic = 3rd May



Make a firm note in your diary or on your calendar to have a great day attending BOTH our Reigate Beekeepers Auction of Bees and Beekeeping Equipment AND our Spring Bee Health Clinic on Saturday the 3rd May.

Get along to the Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close, Mickleham, Surrey (RH5 6EE).

Surrey County Honey Show 26th May - Stewards Needed



... a great venue for everyone and the Bee Tent is one of the star attractions. Do please submit an entry – the competition classes

offer something for all of you, inc. the opportunity for a free ticket to the show with every 5 entries.

Volunteers are also requested to help as stewards ...

South of England Show - Bees & Honey



The Bees & Honey Section of this annual event provides more opportunities to enter your own Honey and other 'products of the hive' into competition, open to UK's beekeepers.

Staged at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL on the 5th, 6th, & 7th June 2014, horticulture will be a central feature of this years show ...

WSBKA - Annual Market & Auction



Another Beekeeping Auction held annually in the spring, claiming a reputation for being a major event in the beekeeping calendar ... and on our doorstep. So could be worth

a visit if you are looking for something in particular. This year's event – the 42nd – will take place on Saturday 26th April 2014 in Pulborough...

April Tips Checklist



The weather has certainly improved with early bloom already appearing. The bees should be seen bringing pollen into the hive.

Your first internal hive inspections may have already been undertaken during March, and can safely be carried out on a warm day when the Apple trees are in bloom, according to our ...

BBKA Storm Damage Survey



As the bad weather seems to have now subsided, many are left with the task of clearing up, assessing the damage and facing the challenge of moving forward to rebuild their lives; while others are still living in the chaos.

The BBKA is interested to learn how many of their members have been affected ...

Reigate Beekeepers

MEMBERS
website

Go to [FRONT PAGE](#) for HEADLINE NEWS, APIARY TASKS, FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS and NEXT BIG EVENT items. Visit the [NOTICE BOARD](#) for all the latest general information and to the [KNOWLEDGE BASE](#) for beekeeping skills information. To see [Who's Who](#), look under the [MEMBERSHIP](#) tab, and [ALL](#) the available [Diary Dates](#) are under the [EVENTS](#) menu tab, plus more !

