

Reigate Beekeepers



BeeNews September 2015



Photo opportunity of the Month



Ivy and Honey

This month's photo taken by Jeremy Early shows two different types of bee cooperatively working one of the fewer available nectar sources at this time of year.

On the left is an Ivy Bee (*colletes hederæ*) and on the right our familiar Honey Bee (*apis mellifera*), both gathering nectar from an Ivy flower which is very rich in nectar.

As the flowering season draws to a close and sources of food become scarcer, cooperation and preparation for the Winter is the order of the day for bees and beekeepers.

Got an unusual, topical, or interesting bee related image that could be featured here? Please send it to the editors today!

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event / Description	Venue / Contact
Sept, Wed 2 nd	Late Summer Practical Meeting (18:30 -20:00) Learning/Practical session to prepare hives for Winter.	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Sept, Sat 6 th	Norbury Saw Mill Open Day (10:00 -16:00) Promoting RBKA and beekeeping, and selling honey.	Norbury Park Richard Bradfield
Sept, Wed 9 th	1st Winter Meeting (19:30 - 21.30) 'Where does honey come from?' A talk by Adam Leitch .	Woodhatch Centre Paul Cleaver
Sept, Wed 16 th	Late Summer Practical Meeting (18:30 -20:00) Learning/Practical session to prepare hives for Winter.	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Sept, Sat 19 th	SBKA Training Day - Sussex Plan & Bees in the City Talks by Prof F Ratnieks & Elizabeth Samuelson.	East Horsley Sandra Rickwood
Sept, Wed 23 rd	Late Summer Practical Meeting (18:30 - 20:00) Learning/Practical session to prepare hives for Winter.	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Sept, Wed 23 rd	BBKA November Module Exams Application Deadline Application forms and fees to Celia Perry by this date.	County Exam Sec. Celia Perry
Sept, Sun 27 th	Banstead Show (to be confirmed) Promoting RBKA and beekeeping, and selling honey.	Banstead Coordinator tbc
Sept, Wed 30 th	Final Summer Practical Meeting (from 18:30 if needed) Learning/Practical session to prepare hives for Winter.	Henfold Apiary Andrew Buchanan
Oct, Wed 7 th	2nd Winter Meeting (19:30 - 21.30) Topic and speaker to be advised.	Woodhatch Centre Paul Cleaver
Oct, Sat 10 th	RBKA Annual Honey Show (10:00 - 16:00) Competition Classes, Promoting RBKA and selling honey.	Reigate Priory Gym Maggie Minter/Celia Perry
Oct, 29 th -31 st	National Honey Show Competition Classes, Lectures, Workshops, Trade Hall.	Weybridge Bob Maurer
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.

Keep in Touch this Winter

With the final knockings of 'Summer' beekeeping activity this month, thoughts and more importantly...deeds now turn to Winter preparations for existing colonies and next years plans.

By way of perhaps marking that transition, apart from the Honey Harvest Festival bash at the 6 Bells last month for which congratulations to 'Karen & The Bottle Men' (see website for incriminating evidence), we have the fast approaching **Reigate Beekeepers Honey Show**.

This is our flagship event, that not only allows us all to compete amongst ourselves for some impressive silverware, but to also inform the public about us as beekeepers, and about bees, and beekeeping in general. So no apologies for adding our mention here, to those elsewhere in this edition.

- Do please read and take note of information about our Honey Show in this months **BeeNews** and on the [Members Website](#).
- Register your entries now into as many of the Competition Classes you can.
- Ask what you could do to help ... no need to wait for the hand on the shoulder!
- And do especially keep in touch with developments by regularly checking the members website for new news, updates or appeals.
- If you are helping on the day, and have not already got one — how about ordering a Reigate Beekeepers Polo or Sweat shirt. Orders submitted by the 21st September will ensure that you will be dressed the part for the show. See the website for [details and order form](#).

As numbers dwindle attending the few remaining Wednesday evening sessions at Henfold and we get into monthly meetings only at Woodhatch, it is all the more important for you to follow events via these pages and the website's posts. Your editorial team put a great deal of time into keeping the information stream fresh and relevant. It will be nice to know it is being used!

Richard & Graham

BeeNews Contents

Section	Features	Page
Photo Opportunity	Ivy and Honey	1
Dates for your Diary	2nd September - 31st October	1
Editorial	Keep in Touch this Winter	2
Events News	RBKA Honey Show	3
	National Honey Show - opportunities to assist	4
	Summer Meetings Concluding / Winter Meetings Commencing	4
Members News	Chairman's Chat - Much Happening and Much Still To Do	5 - 6
	Peter Jacyna - Obituary	6
	Multiple Congratulations - and a Farewell	7
Questions & Answers	What is Nosema ?	7 - 8
Topical News	Viruses in Bees	9 - 10
Education News	NBU Launch eLearning	10
	Reminder for November 2015 Modules / Surrey Training Day	11
DIY Suggestions & Tips	An Efficient Way to Fill Honey Jars	11
Website News	Latest Posts Summary	12

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

Reigate Beekeepers Honey Show

The biggest regular event of our year in terms of public profile is on **Saturday 10th October**.

The occasion provides a tremendous opportunity to promote beekeeping in general, Reigate Beekeeper's activities, the training and education we provide, as well as show-casing members exhibits in the Honey Show Competition Classes.



Show theme this year is **Pollen & Pollination**.

All this takes organising, and Show Secretaries **Maggie Minter** & **Celia Perry** have already been planning and making preparations. They are now in need of YOUR help to bring their plans to life.

The **Public Honey Show** still needs more helpers to manage and run stalls or displays. If you have already volunteered or been allocated a task or role, many thanks. If not, and you can spare an hour or so during the evening of the 9th for setting-up, or a half day or so on the 10th to help during (or even with clearing up after) the show; please contact **Maggie** [click Here](#).

And it is not just people power needed on the day. Stock will be required for a number of sales stalls. Unless otherwise noted, stock needs to be delivered to the Gym either during the Friday evening set-up between 7:00 & 9:00 pm, or before 9:30 am on the Saturday morning.

1. **Honey Sales** - Members wishing to provide honey, cut comb etc to offer for sale must contact **Richard Woodhouse** (tel: **07710 245993**) in advance to agree and arrange drop off. Maximum of 10 x lb jars (or equivalent) please to give everyone a chance and hopefully provide a diversity of source locations. 10% of selling price to RBKA, you get the rest. Ensure all stock is correctly and 'street legally' packaged and labelled.
2. **Plant Stall** - Potted plants/cuttings etc will be needed. Please, no more than 6 of any one variety, and also arrange to collect unsold plants at the end of the show. Please liaise with **Mary Broatch**. (tel: **01737 248264**)

3. **Refreshments Stall** - Cakes will be needed, so even if you cannot help directly during Fri/Sat, can you provide a cake or biscuits etc? Perishable items will need to be brought in during the morning of the 10th. Please liaise with **Sue Hickson**, (tel: **01883 743386**).

4. **Tombola** - Prizes please please ... they can also be brought along to prior Wednesday evening meetings and passed onto **Gill Simpson** please.

5. **Mead Tasting** - Donations of bottles of Mead required, to **Maggie**.

Subject to availability, on a first come first served basis, free parking is available for helpers during Friday evening and all day Saturday beyond the barrier at the rear right-hand corner of the Bell Street car park.

The **Honey Show Competition** of course really does need as many members as possible registering and eventually delivering entries into the twenty five different Classes.

No prior experience is needed ... indeed, this is the opportunity to gain that experience. It is also an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of Honey Bee related products and the craft of RBKA's beekeepers.

The **2015 Honey Show Schedule** [click here](#) includes details of all the classes, entry rules and labelling and presentation instructions as needed.

Preferably, register your entries online [click here](#) or collect a printed form at a Wednesday meeting and submit to **Celia**, asap please. Full entry details and the on-line registration can be found on the Members website [click here](#).

This year, budding microscopists can enter a new show Class 22 **Microscope Slide of Pollen Grains**. But hurry, entries for this class will need to be submitted by the 9th Sept.

Finally, would all holders of trophies from last year's show, please arrange to return them to **Celia** during September.

If you have any queries related to Show entries, please see or contact **Celia** directly [click here](#).

Honey Show - General Stewards

With the new National Honey Show layout, we will be requiring more stewards this year. Your help would be very much appreciated. Beginners are welcome. You do not need to be an expert beekeeper but I can promise that you will learn a lot from the other beekeepers you meet. The deal is that you get free entry to the show, work for half a day at the direction of the chief steward and the rest of the day is yours to enjoy the show. You even get £5 to buy a sandwich! You have to take what's given so you could be watching over the security of some of the displays whilst talking to visitors, directing visitors around the show, marshalling the crowds in the lecture theatres or anything else that comes up.

Please apply as soon as possible to the General Secretary, John Hendrie, 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9JT or bibba26@talktalk.net

(To avoid confusion the request is for general stewards, not to be a judges steward. You are very welcome to apply to John if you do wish to be a judges steward (ie assist a judge as he or she judges each of the almost 200 classes on Thursday morning) but please understand that competition for these jobs is intense and we do give preference to applicants who have started the process of becoming a honey judge.)

Honey Show - Other Volunteers

Volunteers are also needed to man the Information Stand. These are usually 2 to 3 hour sessions where you meet and chat to the diverse mix of show visitors. Members with all levels of beekeeping knowledge have thoroughly enjoyed their time doing this in the past so why not join in this year. Free entry to the show is included.

If you wish to be involved please email Sandra Rickwood at rickwoodsaka@gmail.com or telephone on 01932 244326. Please advise the half days and times you will be available

The Show will be at St Georges College, Weybridge. We will need a few stewards during set up on Wednesday 28th October and the show will be open from Thursday 29th to Saturday 31st October. Opening times are generally 9 am to 6 pm. There are also 'after hours' events run by organisations such as Bees for Development and the Central Association of Beekeepers, and many excellent lectures and workshops.

The Trade Hall (with free entry) also provides an excellent opportunity to start to get ready for the 2016 season with many of the leading equipment suppliers on our doorstep.

For full details including Show Schedules. Lecture Programmes and Booking details visit the NHS website www.honeyshow.co.uk



Summer Meetings Concluding

The weekly 'Summer' meetings may be nearing their end, but are not over yet. There remains much for all the hive teams to do by way of preparing their colonies for the Winter and cleaning up and storing used equipment before the Winter Team takes over.

Meetings at Henfold will continue through September on Wednesdays on the 2nd, 16th, possibly the 23rd; and maybe the 30th if tasks still need to be completed.

Winter Meetings Commencing

The monthly 'Winter' meetings are now commencing. The first will be on Wednesday 9th September, at the Woodhatch Centre - 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start, until approx. 9:00 pm. **Adam Leitch** will present a talk titled '**Where does Honey Come From**'.

Details of speakers and topics for the following months meetings are provided in the Members website 'Diary Dates' section and the 'Winter Meetings Program' post.

Much Happening and Much Still To Do

by Andrew Buchanan

Chairman's Chat

There are several topics that are worthy of my mentioning this month.

Firstly, congratulations and well done to all who passed their BBKA exams recently. We also had to say farewell to **Neil Hallam**, who has moved to live in Northamptonshire. On 19th August we sent him off with congratulations, our thanks for all his hard work and our best wishes for many happy years in his new home.

An enormous thank you to **David Allbeury**, **Colin Clement**, **Kevin Keep**, **Mike Lowe**, **Daniel Penna** and **Pete Scroggs**, who completed the painting of the Pavilion walls with fire protective paint. Many thanks also to **Geoff Blay**, **Phil Elwell** and **Vince Gallo** for their work in the kitchen and the toilet areas with installing electrical wiring, fixing plumbing, ceilings and interior walls and with plastering.

A lot of beekeeping has also been going on, with particular emphasis on dealing with Varroa Destructor and assessing the stores in each colony to make sure they don't starve mid-winter. These activities will continue throughout most of September's Wednesday evenings, together with preparing each hive to protect the bees against the ravages of winter weather. Members are encouraged to attend these sessions, to look after the colony they have nursed all summer and learn what actions are needed to give colonies the best chance of surviving the winter and being strong and ready for the start of April sessions next year.

On Wednesday 26th August a smaller but enthusiastic number of members attended Henfold. After a somewhat briefer session looking at the bees, some helped Vince with bottling mead that has been fermenting over the past 3 months, and took the opportunity to have a quick taste. The comments from almost all the 'Connoisseurs' were most positive with many exclaiming "wow that's pretty good!"

Following on, about 30 members enjoyed an evening of fun and games together with a tasty buffet organized and held at the Six Bells, Newdigate, to mark the harvesting of honey from the hives in our apiaries. For doing the sticky end of our beekeeping, more thanks to **Andrew Cornwall**.

Looking ahead, our 2015/2016 year starts on 1st October, when membership fees will once again fall due.

In 2014/15, the full years Registered Member's fee was £54 for those receiving a printed BeeCraft (or £48 if receiving BeeCraft electronically). After taking out the BBKA/SBKA charges, Public Liability Insurance, BeeCraft costs, and the BDI cost for 3 colonies; RBKA was left with just £12.50 (or £12.35). With a total of 170 Registered Members, this raised less than £2,125 to spend on providing all the facilities needed to enable us run all our various functions for their benefit.

Incidentally, the £12.50 per member represents less than £0.82 per visit to Henfold Copse during the 26 weeks of the summer training sessions!

Now that the facilities at Henfold Copse have been enhanced by the Pavilion, allowing our Training Curriculum to be more comprehensive and in more comfort, the costs of maintenance will increase e.g. Electricity, Insurance and Water costs, apart from the general increase of beekeeping commodity costs.

The fees for Registered Membership for 2015/16 have now been set at £58 (H/C) and £52 (Elec). This means that, with the same number of Registered members, RBKA will only be left with a nominal £15 per member to run the Association i.e. still only a total of less than £2,550, or £0.98 per summer training session!

Without additional income derived from donations, fund raising and sales of honey, RBKA would be unable to maintain the standards achieved over recent years. The pavilion will itself provide a potential for raising just some of the needed funds.

Details of all Category Fees for the year 2015/2016 will be sent to each member in the next few weeks and I hope that the above example of how fees for BBKA Membership are made up will help towards understanding the need for the modest increases.

Commencing on the 9th September, don't forget our Monthly Winter Meetings at the Woodhatch Community Centre. Full details of all dates and the programme can be found elsewhere in this [BeeNews](#) and on the [website](#).

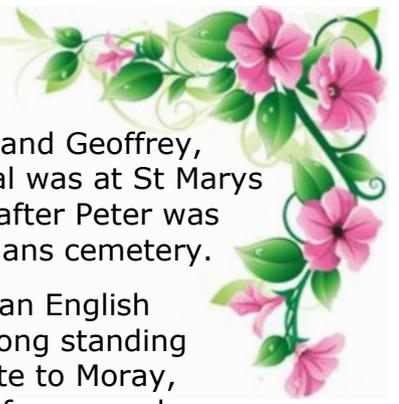
The renowned Reigate Beekeepers Honey Show will be held at the Priory School, Reigate on Saturday 10th October. From the Schedule of Show Categories on the Members' website, see if there is at least one into which you could make an entry. **Maggie Minter**, Show Secretary, is also seeking help with number of activities as detailed under Events News. Do come along on the day to help run stalls and generally enthuse the visiting public with answers to the myriad of questions they ask about bees, plants and honey etc.

Simon & Karen Ford and **Sally Bennett** will be monitoring the twenty or so colonies at Henfold Copse throughout the winter months. They are recruiting enthusiastic members to join them. Please contact one of them if you would like to help in the vital work they hope to carry out month by month. Their contact details can be found under **Who's Who** on the website.

Andrew Buchanan
01306 712773 / 07879 552582



Peter Jacyna



Sadly we report that Peter Jacyna, father of Simon and Geoffrey, passed away suddenly on Monday 27th July. The funeral was at St Marys Church, Fochabers, Moray on the 4th August, whereafter Peter was reunited with his beloved late wife Patricia at St Ninians cemetery.

Peter, originally from the Ukraine, and Patricia, an English teacher, were both keen gardeners, and devoted long standing members of RBKA. Even after moving from Reigate to Moray, Scotland in 2007, they kept in touch with a number of our members.

Patricia had passed away in 2012 and for nearly the last two years Peter had been living in a retirement home. His son Geoff tells us that whilst Peter latterly suffered with reduced mobility such that he would not leave his room, his mind had remained sharp.

Peter kept at least ten colonies of bees for some forty years in well used, yet well looked after WBC hives, producing copious quantities of honey. He was a fountain of knowledge on beekeeping ... despite the occasional confusion over translations.

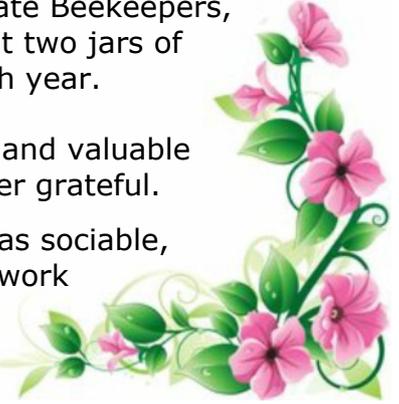
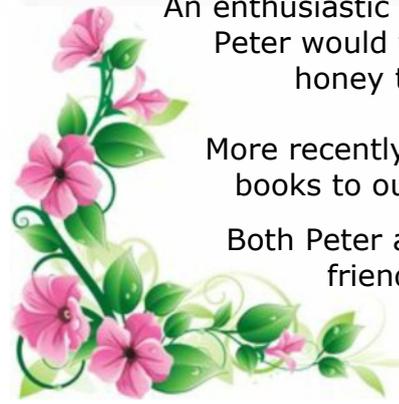
Members have fond memories of the couples generous hospitality and their catering from the days of 'Garden Meetings', when produce from their own splendid gardens would also be generously shared.

Warmly regarding them as "special people", Audrey Gill recalls an early encounter shortly after having taken up beekeeping herself. Lying on a hospital trolley awaiting to go into theatre for minor Surgery, Audrey recognised a face from the bee club. It was Peter, a volunteer hospital porter at the time. Next day, Audrey received a visit and flowers from Patricia.

An enthusiastic ambassador for beekeeping and Reigate Beekeepers, Peter would traditionally proudly greet and present two jars of honey to the Mayor at our Honey Shows each year.

More recently, Peter had donated many important and valuable books to our library, for which we will remain ever grateful.

Both Peter and Patricia will be long remembered as sociable, friendly and easy going; and for the good work they did for RBKA and beekeeping..



Multiple Congratulations - and a Farewell

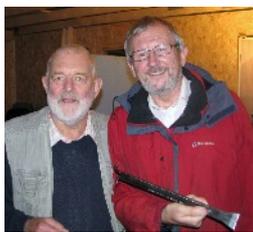
A 100% pass rate was racked up by 22 members taking BBKA Assessments this Summer. Congratulations for achieving her **Junior Assessment** to **Jennifer MacDonald**

And congratulations also to the 20 members achieving their **Basic Assessments** ...

Catherine Baart (Credit); **Sally Bennett** (Credit); **Sandra Benton** (Credit);
Geoff Blay (Credit); **Lizzie Bruce** (Credit); **Will Clemson** (Credit); **Jim Cooper** (Credit);
Colin David (Credit); **Karen Ford** (Credit); **Simon Ford** (Credit); **Mike Lowe** (Credit);
Douglas McGregor (Pass); **Adam McLaren** (Credit); **Peter Moore** (Pass);
Geoff Pye (Credit); **Anna Slade** (Credit); **Karen Thomas** (Pass); **Chris Trodd** (Credit);
Lee Turner (Credit); **Janice Whitehead** (Pass).

Neil Hallam was awarded the **BBKA General Husbandry Certificate**.

Neil's one day assessment was carried out during June by two BBKA Assessors at his own apiary where his beekeeping and honey handling equipment will have been inspected. A manipulation of one or more of his colonies will have been observed and a method of selective queen rearing required to have been demonstrated, before an oral Q&A on any topic from the General Husbandry Assessment syllabus.



Neil's next award was to be for his tremendous work during the past 12 months in putting the managing of the Henfold Apiary into such an excellent order. On Wednesday 19th August, **Andrew Buchanan** presented Neil with a (rather) long, engraved hive tool to mark his efforts, as a token of the Division's thanks and for Neil to remember RBKA by. Neil has now moved up to Northamptonshire, where an unsuspecting Association or Division is about to enrol a valuable asset.

Questions & Answers

Question - What is Nosema ?

With the results of the recent Bee Health Clinic held for the first time at Henfold Copse this is a very pertinent question for some beekeepers - one of our editors included !

Nosema is very, very common and causes enormous problems in many bee colonies leading to the death of some. It often goes undetected because beekeepers do not realise that there is anything wrong with their bees.

Not that Nosema is confined to honey bees: there are many species attacking different creatures, insects and higher animals, and more than one which can infect man, but usually only when the immune system is compromised. They are members of the group Microsporidia and belong to the Fungus Kingdom.

So what causes Nosema in honey bees ?

There are two organisms to blame: *Nosema apis* and *N. ceranae* and, although their life-cycles and appearance are similar, there are some differences in their effects. The worker

honey bee takes the Nosema spores in through its mouth and they germinate in the mid-gut, the bee's stomach, by shooting out a long tube into one of the cells lining the walls of the mid-gut. This tube is rather like a harpoon as it is coiled up inside the spore until released into a cell. Once the tube has penetrated the cell wall the contents of the spore pour in and begin to multiply.

Under favourable conditions new spores are produced in five days and these may re-infect other cells in the mid-gut, or pass out with the faeces to be taken in by another bee. When the infection is fully developed there may be as many as thirty to fifty million spores in the mid-gut and some recent work has shown that the cells lining the gut may be coated by a film of spores.

This description applies to *N. apis*, which has been around for a very long time indeed, but we now have a new kid on the block: *N. ceranae*.

This was only discovered and named in 1996, as a parasite on *Apis cerana*, the Eastern honey

bee. In 2005 it was found on the Western honey bee in Spain where it seemed to cause far more damage to the colonies than *N. apis*. Since then it has been discovered all over Europe including here and has tended to take over from our old friend *N. apis*, although both species can be present in the same colony. It does not produce so many spores as *N. apis* but is able to penetrate to the inner layer of the gut wall providing bacteria and viruses with an entry point into the bee's haemolymph (blood).

Signs and Effects of Nosema Infection

We always used to describe the main symptom of Nosema as 'Spring dwindle', or a failure of a colony to build up in the Spring. There could also be dysentery in and around the hive, particularly at the entrance or on the alighting board, showing as brown stains where bees had defaecated. This is probably due to an accumulation of fluid and waste in the rectum and not a direct effect of the disease itself.

Where the combs and frames are soiled, the spread is more rapid as house bees try to clear up the mess. Often a spring infection clears up once the older bees die and the bees are able to fly out freely on cleansing flights.

Nosema always shortens the life of the individual bee and is particularly damaging to winter bees, which are unable to store the large quantities of protein that they need in their fat bodies and will die too soon to kick start the colony into growth in the spring. The whole colony may collapse. Queens may become infected and are usually superseded, or may stop laying and die.

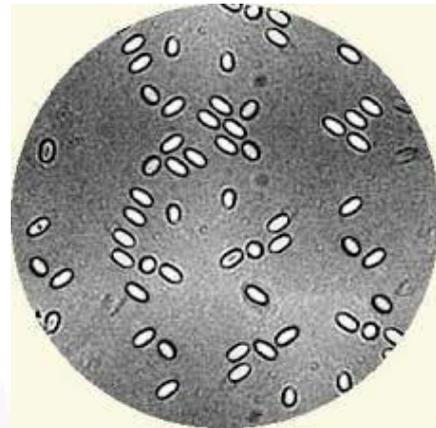
In addition, there are three bee viruses associated with Nosema. *N. ceranae* is not so simple as it is not seasonal. True, it may damage colonies in the spring, but it does not seem to disappear in the Summer. Secondly there is no dysentery, so a colony may die, usually in late Winter/ early Spring with no obvious signs at all.

Diagnosing Nosema

Adult bees with Nosema do not look sick – no pale complexion, fevered brow or going off their food – so the only way to diagnose it is to look for the spores inside the bees.

All you need is a sample of thirty of the older bees (from the entrance or from supers) and a microscope with a magnification of 400 times.

The bees are crushed, very thoroughly, with some water, either with a pestle and mortar or in a sealed plastic bag using a rolling pin or similar implement. A drop of the resultant liquid is put on a slide, covered with a cover slip and examined under the microscope.



The spores appear like little grains of rice. If there are huge numbers then you have a problem, if there are only one or two then you probably can relax. Even if the result is positive, it is impossible for ordinary mortals to tell the two species apart. This needs an electron microscope or a DNA test.

Treating Nosema

There is no chemical treatment for Nosema. What you do depends on the time of year. In the Spring and early Summer getting the bees onto completely clean comb, using a *Bailey comb change* (originally developed to help with Nosema) is the best bet.

In the Autumn there really is nothing you can usefully do. Where the problem recurs it is best to requeen and ensure that you do not breed from bees that frequently suffer from Nosema.

There are substances on the market which are said to combat Nosema but it is up to the individual to experiment if they wish to – I am not going to suggest anything.

courtesy of Celia Davis Warwickshire BKA

The marketing authorisation for Fumidil B expired on the 31st December 2011. Any existing stocks of the product can be used up until the end of the expiry date shown on the packaging.

Specially formulated feeds that boosts colony growth and brood populations, such as Vita Feed Gold can be useful in building up colonies that have been weakened by disease.

Viruses in Bees

Bees, like all living things, have a wide range of viral diseases. Most have been known since the 1970's and were, at that time, relatively harmless.

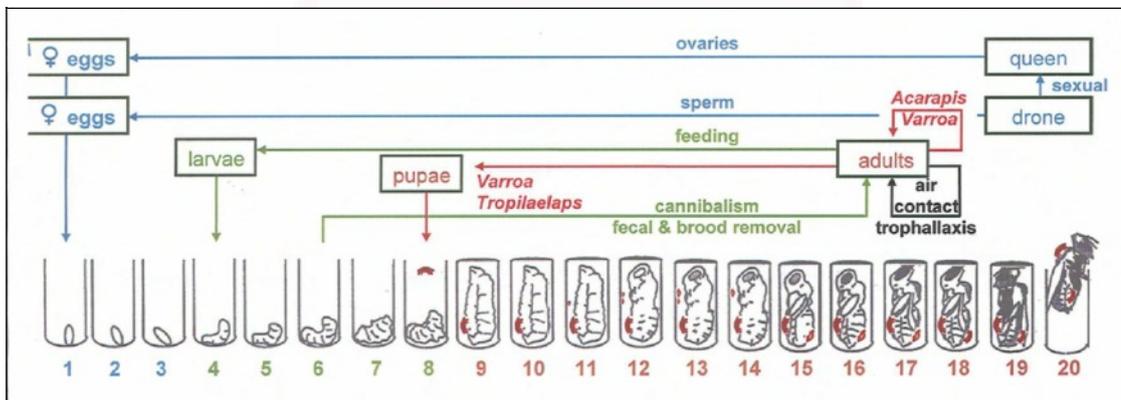
Epidemics were transient and rarely at the expense of the colonies. This peaceful co-existence has been disturbed during the past thirty years, mainly due to *Varroa*, but also due to changes in farming and beekeeping practices.

This article explains the relationship between bees and their viruses, the impact they cause, and how risks can be reduced.

Viruses can only survive through transfer to new hosts. This does not necessarily have to cause disease. Illness or death of the host without transfer is, from the virus' perspective, effectively suicide. Disease only benefits a virus if it enhances the chance of transmission (such as sneezing with colds).

The figure below describes the various transmission routes available for bee viruses. These can be broadly divided into:

- oral faecal (through food and faeces, green)
- sexual (blue)
- contact (black)
- through a parasite vector (red).



The diagram outlines the major transmission routes for honey bee viruses in relation to honey bee development stages.

Virus Transmission

Faecal, oral and contact transmission is relatively inefficient: high virus concentrations are required to cause infection. Transmission via mites by contrast is very efficient and generates very high virus titres in the affected bees. Such bees then become also much more infectious through the other transmission routes. This mutual reinforcement of different transmission routes increases the likelihood of an epidemic. Since adult bees are central to most transmission routes, due to their many interactions and mobility, their health is essential to reduce the impact of such epidemic transmission loops.

Virus disease management

The main source of infection is the bees themselves. Through the worldwide trade in bees and bee products, most bee pathogens now have a world wide distribution. However, the prevalence of disease can vary sharply between countries, due to different beekeeping or farming practices, as well as geographic and climatic differences. There are two components to (virus) disease management:

- minimising the risk of transmission
- reducing the virus load in colonies.

Reduce the risk of transmission

This focuses largely on separating infected material from non infected material. This applies mostly to the bees themselves (queens, sperm, packages, colonies, apiaries) and to lesser degree to equipment (hives, frames, hive tools, extraction equipment, etc.).

Apiary management

Minimising the exchange of bees and material between apiaries is important.

Know your enemies

Routine inspections and thorough knowledge of disease symptoms are essential for identifying problems early. Colonies that develop slower than expected in the Spring or fail to accumulate honey in the Summer are suspect, as are frames with 'spotty' brood, which can arise from bees removing diseased brood.

Diseased colonies should be quarantined and protected with entrance reducers to prevent robbing by healthy colonies.

Reduce the disease load

This focuses on general colony health and disrupting the key transmission routes.

Preventive management

Since viruses are opportunists that flourish during times of stress, the first remedy is to keep your bees happy, healthy and stress free. This boils down to the usual Good Beekeeping advice such as abundant season-long foraging, minimal disturbance, protection from the elements, a productive queen, adequate ventilation and room for growth.

Since honey bees thrive in a diverse (floral) environment, the intensification of farming landscapes and practices has put greater pressure on our bees.

Disrupting transmission

It is important to know the preferred transmission routes of the different viruses. For example, chronic bee paralysis virus is primarily transmitted through close contact. It is therefore often associated with overcrowding and aggression, for example due to over expansion, inclement weather or insufficient forage. Resolving the causes of overcrowding disrupts the transmission and slows or reverses the epidemic.

Sacbrood virus is a larval disease of Spring and rapid colony expansion, when there is much brood for the adult bees to attend and infected larvae may escape detection and removal. It usually clears up by itself when the adult population catches up, but it can look disconcertingly like American foulbrood (AFB).

Black queen cell virus (BQCV) is associated with *Nosema apis*, a disease of adult bees that normally peaks in late Spring. It can be a problem in commercial queen rearing operations where breeder colonies are kept broodless for extended periods. The nurse bees tend to be

older in such colonies, and therefore more likely to be infected with *Nosema*, and thus also BQCV, which is transmitted to the queen larvae through the royal jelly.

Critical treatment timing

Deformed wing virus, acute bee paralysis virus and slow bee paralysis virus are actively transmitted by *Varroa* and most likely also by *Tropilaelaps* mites. Controlling the mite population is the key to managing these virus diseases. The most damaging mite mediated virus transmission is to developing pupae when the mite is reproducing. Such pupae produce damaged, non functional and short lived bees that accelerate dwindling and winter collapse.

Autumn *Varroa* treatment should therefore be at least six weeks (one bee generation) before brood rearing has finished. One week to remove the mites on adult bees, two weeks to clear the mites from the brood and three weeks to purge, from the adult population, those bees derived from mite infested pupae with high virus titres and reduced survival.

Hive Frames

Although traces of viruses can be found in hive boxes and combs, especially in stored pollen, it is unclear how contagious is this material, given the inefficient oral transmission of most viruses. Frames covered in faeces or diseased brood represent a much more serious risk and should obviously be replaced. Regular comb replacement also helps avoid the accumulation of bacterial pathogens and pesticides.

Advances in anti-viral medicines, probiotics, and genetics also offer promise, but follow the basics of good beekeeping still remains the best advice to keep your bees healthy.

Adapted from an article in Bee World

Education News



National Bee Unit launch eLearning

Pertinent to the articles in [BeeNews](#) this month the NBU have launched their eLearning resource on BeeBase, and the first module is entitled 'Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Viruses'.

[Click here](#) then log into BeeBase where you will find an eLearning link to the left of the navigation panel.

Reminder for November 2015 Modules



The November modules will be held on 14th November this year.
If you are intending to sit one or more please:-



- Download a copy of the latest application form from the BBKA website, fill it in and send it to me – 68 Broadhurst, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 1QF, or hand it to me at the September Winter meeting
- Make sure that your application form is with me by 23rd September. The fee per module is £25, this can be paid by cheque, but preferably by ringing BBKA at Stoneleigh (02476 696 679), paying by credit or debit card and then writing the receipt number you are given on the application form before sending it to me.
- Don't send the form direct to Stoneleigh; I have to make sure we have enough desks and chairs available on the day for all candidates and if I don't know you are hoping to take a module because you have sent your form direct to BBKA, I can't take you into account when planning the day.

Email me at beeexams@hotmail.co.uk if you have any queries - **Celia Perry**



SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TRAINING DAY



'The Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health & Well Being' and 'Bees in the City: the effects of urbanisation on honey bees'

Saturday, 19th September - For full details [click here](#)

DIY Suggestions & Tips

An Efficient Way to Fill Honey Jars

A useful tip from Dennis Chow at this time of year to avoid honey dripping from the closed valve onto the external wall of the honey jar.

Cut off the narrow end of a suitable diameter funnel to produce a big hole of 4 cm, and smooth it with sand paper, then wash.

Place the handle under the honey tank, (to hold it in place), and position the honey tank so when the valve is open, the honey runs directly through the centre of the hole into the honey jar. Try to avoid the honey running onto the wall of the funnel, then into the honey jar, as this will create lots of air bubbles in the honey.

Dennis found it very effective and he can work faster with no more time wasted cleaning the dripping honey off the external wall of the jars.



BeeNews DIY Suggestion

Making your own is fun and saves money



Using the modified 'funnel' he can fill up to 48 jars of honey in half an hour, and with no mess.



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.**

September in Your Apiary



The leaves are turning and the nights are definitely getting cooler.

The honey crop should now be extracted, wet supers cleaned up and returned to storage and we should already be preparing our colonies for winter.

Specifically for September, key tasks are:

NBU Alert - Autumn Starvation



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Important message issued by APHA's National Bee Unit, 13/08/2015

In many areas of the UK nectar flows have ceased and reports are coming in from Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors of starving bee colonies, where the beekeeper is not aware that the bees are severely short of food, or the colony(s) have already starved to death.

BBKA Statement - EU Moratorium



An update on the 2yr EU Moratorium on Neonictinoids, titled 'INFORMATION FOR BBKA MEMBERS' has been issued by the BBKA President; David Aston.

Click this link- [BBKA Statement](#) – to directly view and download the full document as required, or find it via the [BBKA website](#). (follow: News & Events> Press Office> Press Releases & Statements).

September Tips Checklist



September is the month when the normal beekeeping season ends, and you need to start preparing for Winter.

Feed, Check and Protect ... are the key actions.

SBKA Training Day-The Sussex Plan & ...



Presentations of "The Sussex Plan for Honey Bee Health & Well Being" by Professor F Ratnieks (Sussex University) and "Bees in the City: the effects of urbanisation on honeybees" by Elizabeth Samuelson. (University of London)

Full details, timings, costs and reservation instructions are given on the SBKA notice ...

Autumn Bee Clinic - Health Report



During Wednesday 29th July and Saturday 1st August, **Bob Maurer** and his team provided opportunities for Members to have their colonies checked for Nosema.

The end of season adult bee disease clinics were held in the Pavilion building at Henfold Copse. Another first for Reigate Beekeepers. Bob reports the clinics findings...

Topping-Out in style at the BBQ



The sunny and warm evening of 11th July was enjoyed by 50 or so members, partners, friends and special guests for our Summer BBQ at the Henfold Copse apiary.

With the charcoals glowing nicely and the gas grills fired up, the cooking of an assortment of foods, including steaks, chops, burgers, kebabs and of course ...

New Bee Health App



The Alberta (Canada) State Department of Agriculture & Forestry have just released a new "Bee Health" app for Apple (iPhone & iPad) & Android mobile devices. The purpose of the app is to help beekeepers and other users to "detect, diagnose, manage and treat honey bee diseases and pests".

It includes pictures and treatment options which aid ...