

Reigate Beekeepers



BeeNews

October 2015



Photo opportunity of the Month

A late season swarm ?

An October swarm is certainly a rare occurrence, but last year in the grounds of Chatsworth House, Derbyshire this is just what was discovered.

No ordinary swarm, and certainly not one for your brood box, but a magnificent sculpture, cast in gilt bronze and set on a stone pedestal to create the illusion of thousands of bees shimmering and moving in the light.

By British sculptor Bill Woodrow, the swarm sculpture was part of the annual Sotheby's 'Beyond Limits' exhibition.

Got an unusual, topical, or interesting bee related image that could be featured here?



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event / Description	Venue / Contact
Oct, Wed 7 th	Winter Meeting (19:30 - 21:30) 'Gardening for Bees' by guest speaker Dr Mike Lynn(RHS)	Woodhatch Centre Paul Cleaver
Oct, Sat 10 th	Reigate Beekeepers Honey Show (10am - 4pm) Competition Classes, Displays, Stalls & Demonstrations.	Reigate Priory Sch. Celia Perry/Maggie Minter
Oct, 29,30,31.	84th National Honey Show (times vary each day) Lectures, Trade Hall, Honey Show Classes.	Weybridge Bob Maurer
Oct, Sat 31 st	Essex BKA Annual Conference (09:45 - 16:30) Spkrs: Prof F. Ratniks, Prof L. Field & B. Dalby.	Burnham-on-Crouch www.dmbka.org.uk
Nov, Wed 11 th	RBKA AGM & Awards Ceremony (19:30 -21:30) Reports, Election of Officers, Presentation of Trophies	Woodhatch Centre Andrew Buchanan
Nov, Sat 14 th	BBKA Module Exams Putting the reading and learning to the test.	Venue tba Celia Perry
Nov, Sat 28 th	SBKA AGM & Talk (from 2:00pm) Reports, Elections, talk - Seasonal Foraging Challenges	Cobham Village Hall Sandra Rickwood
Nov, Sat 28 th	Fetcham Village Christmas Fair (timings tba) Promoting RBKA and beekeeping, and selling honey.	Fetcham Village Hall Richard Bradfield
Nov, Sat 28 th	Sussex BKA Annual Conference (09:00 - 16:30) Spkrs: R.Smith, H.AL.Toufaila, J.Hendrie, P.Hunter, Dr C Perry.	Uckfield TN22 1AE Sussex BKA flyer
Dec, Wed 2 nd	Winter Meeting (19:30 - 21:30) 'Honey Bees & Ley Lines' by guest spkr Roger Patterson	Woodhatch Centre Paul Cleaver
Jan, Wed 6 th	Winter Meeting (19:30 - 21:30) Jack Chapman's talk: 'Einstein, Honeybees & the Survival of the Human Race'	Woodhatch Centre Paul Cleaver
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.

Show Time beckons

No apologies offered for the many references to 'shows' this month.

It's that time of year when many of us are hopefully able to maybe spare some time from the week by week, or even day by day beekeeping activities and instead devote some time to celebrating and sharing our hobby and passion in some style. There is a Honey Show to be run as well.

Connecting with the public is a role that is central to Reigate Beekeepers existence. Be that by providing first class training for members of the public wishing to become good beekeepers, furthering the public's understanding and appreciation of the honeybee and the role it plays in our environment, or just enabling the public to plain enjoy the honey that bees produce. Our Honey Show allows us [ALL](#) to pull the stops out and get the message across.

And then there is the National Honey Show, a great opportunity to see a spectacular display of the products of the nations beekeepers (and beyond) ... and for us to be part of that display. So as you prepare your [entries for our Show](#), why not also enter them for equivalent Classes in 'The National'. And do try to get along to Weybridge for at least one of the three days of lectures, workshops and retail therapy in the trade hall.

Taking the 'show' out to the public is a role performed by Reigate Beekeepers' attendance at many town fairs and village fetes during the summer. Long standing participation at the Reigate and latterly Redhill markets also provided a connection with the public throughout the year, (rain, shine or snow!) and had established a loyal customer base for our honey. That participation is no longer feasible, so [read on the website](#) about how consideration is being given to alternative ways of connecting the publics search for local honey to beekeepers with honey to sell.

'Keeping the show rolling' could be described as a key role of a Quartermaster, ensuring that the equipment required in the divisions apiaries is to hand as well as facilitating discounted bulk orders of individual members requirements. Could you do that?

Richard & Graham

BeeNews Contents

Section	Features	Page
Photo Opportunity	A late season swarm	1
Dates for your Diary	7th October 2015 - January 6th 2016	1
Editorial	Show Time beckons	2
Members News	Chairman's Chat - Keeping the Shows Running	3
	Vacancy - RBKA Quartermaster	3
	2015/2016 Membership Renewals become due on October 1st	4
Events News	AGM Notifications - RBKA & SBKA	4
	Reigate BeeKeepers' Honey Show - FINAL REMINDERS & APPEALS	5
	National Honey Show - Reminder	5
Topical News	Moisture in Hives	6
Questions & Answers	Who is the most important honey bee ?	7
Horticultural News	Bees and Plants - An Intimate Relationship	8
Website News	Latest Posts Summary	10

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

Keeping the Shows Running.

by **Andrew Buchanan**

Chairman's Chat

What a shame ! The Summer of 2015 was very good for bees to proliferate together with most other insects.

However, it seems that it was not so good for their production of honey. Many members have reported an unexpected low harvest and that their colonies are taking a lot of syrup, as have the bees at Henfold Copse.

Simon Ford made several calls for members to continue attending the Wednesday evening sessions during September.

Sadly, they seem to have fallen upon many deaf ears. The objective was to demonstrate, particularly to newer members, the preparation of the bees and their hives for Winter and also for members to share the cleaning of the equipment they used throughout the summer. Simon and his Winter Team of volunteers will no doubt do their best to prepare the Henfold colonies for next Spring but it is likely that much cleaning work will be left for members to complete !

On Saturday 10th October, RBKA's Honey Show needs your support. **Maggie Minter** and **Celia Perry** are working hard to prepare a tip-top show of the many aspects of our craft for what is perhaps the major annual event in our calendar.

Do try to enter at least one Class and either help to entertain the public at the event itself or just come along to marvel at some of the entries.

Details of the Honey Show Schedule may be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Members Website.

Don't forget that the November Winter Meeting is on Wednesday 11th and is our Annual General Meeting. Again do come along and support the election of the Committee for 2015/16. Formal Notice of the AGM is attached to the email which accompanied the publication of this newsletter. Details are also provided elsewhere in **BeeNews** itself and on the Members Website.

October signals the time for members to pay their Membership Fees for 2015/2016. An early payment would be much appreciated and make our Membership Secretary's and Treasurer's jobs so much easier. Don't forget that electronic payment is now available - see your renewal form for details or contact [Mike Hill](#) if needed.

For the past three years or so, **Richard Stuart** has been our Quartermaster. Unfortunately he has to stand down owing to business reasons. Despite spending much time working abroad he has done a splendid job in looking after the needs of both RBKA and our members. Richard, we thank you very much for a job well done.

This does mean that the Committee is looking for a member to take over the reins of this important post.

A general Job Description is provided below and will also be found on the Members Website.

Andrew Buchanan

VACANCY

RBKA QUARTERMASTER

This important role in the business of Reigate Beekeepers is vacant.

Essentially the post involves working closely with the Managers of our five apiaries to ensure that essential equipment is available for their needs, placing orders with Suppliers as necessary and liaising with our Treasurer to effect payments.

Additional responsibilities include dealing with orders from members, organising an annual stock take of RBKA equipment and helping to prepare forecasts and budgets.

Anyone who is interested in managing this function should contact :

Andrew Buchanan

01306712773

07879 552582

andrewb38@btinternet.com

2015/2016 Membership Renewals become due on October 1st

Invoices for the renewal of membership of the Reigate Beekeepers' Division of the Surrey BKA will now be arriving in Inboxes or through letter boxes. Prompt payments will be appreciated.

Full year renewal fees for 2015/2016 have been set for the various Membership Classes as:

- Registered (with Printed BeeCraft) £58
- Registered (with Digital BeeCraft) £52
- Partner £22
- Country £20
- Junior £20
- Minor £10
- Associate £10
- Friend (by email) £10
- Friend (by post) £16

Registered Membership fees include BDI cover for up to three colonies only. If you need BDI cover for more colonies, add the necessary supplement to the amount you pay.

Partner Membership fees do not include any BDI cover. If you need cover for your own colonies (ie those not covered by your Registered partners BDI, please add the necessary supplements to the amount you pay.

The invoice you receive will be based upon your current Membership Class. If you wish to amend that class, or other details provided on

your invoice (other than the number of Colonies for BDI purposes) please first advise **Mike Hill** directly, who will then update the records and provide you with a new invoice if required.

Only £15 of the Registered, £9 of the Partner and £10 of the Country and Junior member fees are actually retained by Reigate Beekeepers towards providing the facilities we all enjoy. Should you wish to include an additional donation to Reigate Beekeepers along with your renewal fees, please include that with your payment. It will be most welcome.

When submitting an on-line bank transfer payment; as well as correctly entering RBKA's bank sort code and the total payment amount, it is essential to include a reference code that will identify you and what you are paying for.

The code will have four elements:

1. A unique identifier (provided on your Invoice)
2. Whether you want BeeCraft in print or on-line.
3. The total number of colonies you need BDI cover for (including the first three already covered).
4. The amount, if any, of additional Donation to RBKA that you are including with the payment

Payment may also still be made by cheque, payable to 'Reigate Beekeepers', posting or delivering by hand to Mike or **Vince Gallo**.

Events News

AGM Notifications

Reigate Beekeepers'

Notice is hereby given that the Reigate Beekeepers' Association 2015 AGM will be held on Wednesday, 11th November starting at 7:30pm at the Woodhatch Centre.

An agenda will be published in November's **BeeNews** and posted on the website.

All members are encouraged to attend the meeting which will be followed by the **Awarding of Exam Certificates** together with **Trophies and Prizes from the Reigate Beekeepers' Honey Show.**

Venue: The Woodhatch Centre, Whitebeam Drive, Reigate RH2 7LS

Surrey Beekeepers' Association

Notice is hereby given that the 137th Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association will be held on Saturday 28th November 2015 at 2:00pm in Cobham Village Hall.

The meeting will be followed by tea & a talk by

Dr Mihail Garbuzov
Research fellow at LASI
on

'Seasonal foraging challenges in honeybees'

Venue: Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham, Surrey. KT11 2LU.
The meeting will be hosted by Weybridge Division.

Reigate BeeKeepers' Honey Show - FINAL REMINDERS & APPEALS

The plans are in place for the big event on **Saturday the 10th October**, just a few reminders for all members to heed.

- **Tombola** - Donations of PRIZES are needed please ... Preferably brought to the preceding Wednesday evening meeting (7th Oct) and passed to **Gill Simpson** please. If delivering to the venue on the day ... before 9:30 please.
- **Honey Sales** - If you to have your honey, cut comb, wax items, cosmetics etc to offer for sale, you must contact **Richard Woodhouse** (tel: **07710 245993**) in advance of the day to agree and arrange drop off. To allow a diversity of members products to be presented, a limit of 10 x 1lb jars (or equivalent) may be imposed. 10% of selling price to RBKA, you get the rest. Ensure all stock is correctly packaged and labelled.
- **Plant Stall** - Potted plants/cuttings etc will be needed. Please, no more than six 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**)
- **Refreshments Stall** - Cakes will be needed, so even if you can not 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**).
- **Mead Tasting** - Donations of bottles of Mead required, to **Maggie** by the 7th October please.
- **Honey Show Competition entry closes on Saturday 3rd October**. If you have not yet registered an entry and you are reading this **BeeNews** for the first time, you might still have THREE days left to do so!
- **Entry Labels** for those that have registered entries will be first available to collect at the Woodhatch Winter Meeting on Wednesday 7th October. Then at the Priory School Gym from 7:00pm for 1 hour on Friday 9th October, and finally from 8:30am for 30 minutes, on Saturday the 10th October in the Show Hall during the final setting up and staging of the vent.
- **The 2015 Honey Show Schedule** ([click here](#)) includes details of all the classes, entry rules and labelling and presentation instructions as needed.
- **Register on-line** while you can. [click here](#) Full entry details and the on-line registration can be found on the Members website [click here](#).
- **HOLDERS of trophies** from last year's show, please arrange to return them by the 7th October to **Celia** at Woodhatch.
- **Queries?** For questions about Show entries, please see or contact **Celia Perry** directly ([Click Here](#)). For questions about the Stalls and Stands, or offers of help, please see or contact **Maggie Minter** directly ([Click Here](#)).
- And tell **everyone** to come along.

The National Honey Show - 29th, 30th & 31st October

With such a prestigious event right on our own doorstep, it's so easy to either take part in the competition, attend lectures and workshops or visit the Trade Hall. www.honeyshow.co.uk

- **Entries** for all classes to reach the Entries Secretary by 9th October. Late entries until 16th October will incur an additional entry fee of £5. (Note that classes 54-62; Essay, Video, Microscopy & Photograph, are already closed. No late entries permitted)
- **Workshops** are listed in the programme and need to be booked in advance to guarantee a place.
- **Lectures** are not bookable, with seat availability being first come first served. (Note that NHS Membership or a Daily Admission Ticket is required to attend lectures or book Workshops)
- **Browse and Buy** equipment from the trade hall on 29th (noon - 6pm), 30th (9am - 6pm) and 31st (9am - 4:40pm) **no Admission Ticket required.**

Moisture in Hives

The control of moisture within a hive is very important to the health of our bees, particularly during the Winter. The common advice is that it is not cold that kills bees but damp conditions. So it is good to understand how to help your bees manage the humidity within their hive.

Live trees can provide remarkably sound nest cavities, because they actively draw moisture out of the hollows, provide good insulation, and leafy protection from the sun. The bee colony within a tree produces a rising stream of moist air which condenses on the fibrous roof and is absorbed by capillary action, then widely disseminated throughout the structure of the tree. What is interesting is that usually the bees seal any openings at the top of the tree cavity.

So we need to consider what happens inside a hive. Any closed box with a heat source in it will create a convection current. If that box is roughly cubic in form and the heat source is in the centre, the air will rise up the centre and spread across the inside of the top like a mushroom, then fall down all outer surfaces before combining again at the bottom to replace the air that was displaced by the original rise.

If the roof of the hive is insulated the moist air will rise, but after a very minimal amount of condensation the temperature on the underside of the top will rise to close to the temperature of the rising stream of air and thus will not lose moisture due to condensation. Some condensation will occur over the large area of the sidewalls, but much will stay in suspension in the warmer air and will be exchanged with fresh air at the bottom of the hive.

Water carried on these convection currents condenses on all the interior surfaces of the hive that are cold, stores and combs included, since the bees do not heat them. If too much water condenses on the upper surfaces of the hives and on the combs that hold bee bread and honey, the stores become mildewed, the honey may ferment, and cold water drips down onto the clustered bees.

It is therefore important to avoid cold temperatures and condensation at the top of the hive in the Winter. This suggests that rather than increase the ventilation, by such as inserting match sticks under the crown board, which will cause a temperature drop, it is better to insulate the roof. Thus enabling the moisture filled air to flow down to the base of the hive and be exchanged with fresh air.

Deliberate ventilation at the top of the hive will cause some of the moist air to be lost, giving the appearance of improving the situation, but it will destroy the natural circulation of air within the hive, replacing it with a chimney effect.

Even in the Summer the bees need to continuously bring fresh air into the brood nest. So warmed air that is laden with water vapour and CO² constantly rises out of the cluster. If it cools down it will release the water it can no longer hold.

To assist the control of moisture within a hive the following is suggested:-

- Use an open mesh floor to improve circulation and air exchange.
- Insulate the roof (and side walls in the Winter).
- Insert dummy boards on both sides of the brood and super boxes to improve air flow.
- Possibly consider the use of insulated hive top feeders that create a moisture absorbing 'attic' in the hive.

How much water a bee colony can produce inside its nest depends mainly on its size. It is easy to calculate that a decent-size colony may generate one half-cubic foot of water between December and the end of March from its stores and the nectar it may collect in early spring.

This is the equivalent of almost four gallons (eighteen litres) of water or five inches (thirteen centimetres) of water that rains down onto the bees and combs of a colony that is overwintering on seven frames per super!

with thanks to Dave Cushman

Question - Who is the most important honey bee ?

You would think the queen, and in some ways she is, but, from a biological point of view, it is the drones.

Drones are normally produced from unfertilised eggs laid by the queen, but can occasionally result from fertilised eggs or from worker-laid eggs where a colony has become queenless and broodless. All good colonies, once they have built up in the Spring, start to produce drones and the estimates of the amount of comb devoted to drone rearing vary widely. A natural full colony will have probably 10-13% of its comb area devoted to drone production although this may be higher. A weak colony may have very little.

Drones are produced early in the year, as they must be ready for the main swarming season when they will be required to mate with the young queens. The bees then maintain a population of drones until later in the Summer when they are turned out of house and home and left to die, as they are no longer needed.

During the Summer there is a feedback system in operation so that, as drones are lost from the colony, new ones are reared to replace them.

Use of Resources

Drones are bigger and heavier than workers and their larvae are fed for an extra day or so more than those of workers. As a consequence they eat more.



The demands on the colony do not end at hatching, as drones are not sexually mature until they are about two weeks old and must be fed on brood food by the nurse bees as their muscles and some of their reproductive organs continue to develop during their first week in the hive. At this time their demand for protein is high. After this they begin to

feed on more nectar from the cells and continue to feed heavily as they move to mating flights. Flying uses 14mg sugar/hour compared to 1-3mg/hour used when resting. The average drone flight lasts for about thirty minutes after which they need to refuel.

It is clear that the colony invests a great deal of its resources in rearing the several hundred drones that it maintains. We need to ask why, when they could be rearing more workers to boost the colony and ensure more stores for winter survival.

The answer is that the drones carry the genes of the colony into the general bee population and the more fit, healthy drones a colony produces, the more likely it is to get its genes into the next generation of bees. A strong colony can have a major effect on the wider bee population.

The Big Mystery

When drones go on mating flights they travel to drone congregation areas. These are more or less constant from year to year despite the fact that there are no old drones to show young drones the way.



Just how they are located is still a mystery but it is believed that they use topographical features. It seems significant that drones develop magnetite granules in groups of cells in their abdomens from about the 6th day of adult life and this may suggest use of the Earth's magnetic field. However they get there, thousands of drones may collect in these areas and young queens will fly there to mate, probably attracted by drone pheromones.

The multiple mating necessary for each queen can be accomplished rapidly. Of course, the individual drone mates only once and dies

immediately after mating, although his sperm live on in the queen's spermatheca.

A Perfectly Adapted Bee

Beekeepers often regard drones as a waste of space because they do not seem to do much, but they have one function only and that is to mate with a young queen and their structure and life-style are beautifully adapted for this to the exclusion of all else.

They do not have the 'tools' that the workers have, so they cannot bring in nectar or pollen, feed young, make wax, convert nectar or even feed from flowers. The part of their brains associated with learning and memory are reduced and, of course, they have no sting. They do have increased numbers of sense organs on their antennae, to detect queen pheromones and they have huge eyes, which somehow make them quite endearing. There is a lovely section in The Irish Bee Guide which was written in 1904 by Rev Digges:

'Theirs is a life of brief dependence and submission. They gather no stores; nature has not fitted them to do so. The one object of their existence is to fertilise young queens. To that end they are born, are tolerated in the colony, and are allowed free access to the honey cells. Theirs also, is the sacrifice of life to duty; and such of them as survive to the close of the Autumn are driven from the hive to end, in cold and hunger, a life which, if seemingly idle or useless, was at least inoffensive, and full of possibilities whose vastness fills with awe and amazement every thinking mind.'

A beautifully adapted, very important bee. So respect your drones and appreciate them as a result of evolutionary perfection. Particularly at this time of year when their fate is sealed and any that remain will be ejected from the hive.

courtesy of Celia Davis Warwickshire BKA

Horticultural News

Bees and Plants - An Intimate Relationship

Flowering plants have been around for a very long time: they evolved in the Cretaceous period, some 140 million years ago and became widespread about 100 million years ago. They are a very successful and diverse group, dominant throughout the world and colonising virtually every habitat from deserts to mountain tops, arctic wastes and tropical forests, lakes and rivers, and even a few species in the oceans.

Bees appeared, in the evolutionary scheme of things, a little later than the flowering plants and, although not many fossils of bees remain, the earliest one found so far has been dated at about 100 million years old and, although it still had some wasp characteristics, it also had plumose (branched) hairs, which are specific to bees.

The earliest bees were solitary and it took some time for sociality to develop, but the essential fact is that just about the time that the flowering plants began their bid for world domination, bees also were developing and this led to the formation of a very intimate relationship which persists to the present time.

The Role of Pollen

The huge advantage that flowering plants (and conifers incidentally) have over other groups of plants, was the evolution of the pollen grain as a means of transporting the male sex cells (gametes). This structure protects the important tiny cells with a hard coat, so that they can be transported over sometimes, huge distances and hostile environments and still retain their viability. This frees the plants from a dependence on moisture at some stage in their life-cycle. At this point it is important to consider a little simple genetics.

Most flowers have male and female structures. The male structures are anthers and produce pollen grains containing the male gametes, the female structures are ovaries, containing the female gametes, and stigmas which are receptive to the Pollen.

Such a flower can produce seed (from the female gametes) using its own pollen or pollen from another flower on the same plant. This is called self-pollination and is very common.

The problem with this system is that the offspring show very little variation and the ability of the plant to evolve, and eventually for new species to be produced, is reduced.

So, many flowers will not accept pollen from the same plant, but need to get it from another plant of the same species and we call this cross-pollination. Here the offspring will show variation, the fitter specimens will survive and the species may gradually evolve.

Pollen Movement

The plant's problem now becomes a logistical one of getting pollen from one plant to another and the early plants, and many alive today, used air currents (anemophily) to waft enormous amounts of light pollen about, in the hope that some of it would land on the right stigmas. However, using an insect visitor to transport the pollen (entomophily) works even better, with less wastage of pollen and more targeted recipients and many plants developed this method.

Some flowers, for example *Salix caprea* and *Tilia* spp employ both methods (ambophily).

Insect-pollinated flowers have to advertise themselves so are large, brightly coloured and/or scented. Small flowers may be built into inflorescences, and occasionally other attractants may be used: orchids of the genus *Ophrys* attract males of specific species of wasp or bee to them by their resemblance to the females of the species and their pheromone-mimicking scents. Such dependence on one species is efficient but can lead to disaster if the population of the insect crashes.



In general, once attracted the insect must be rewarded with food: pollen and, in some cases, nectar, a sugar rich secretion which is given in exchange for pollinating services.

Bees and Plants

Bees have two great advantages over other insects regarding pollination:

1. All bees are covered with plumose hairs which trap pollen grains.
2. Bees (almost without exception) feed entirely, in larval and adult stages, on the products of flowers: pollen and nectar. The nectar provides energy while pollen gives them protein, fats, vitamins and minerals, all essential, particularly for the growth of larvae.

Honey bees have even more advantages:

1. There are a lot of them and their colonies are perennial. Compare this to small bumblebee colonies and to the solitary bees which are about for usually only a small part of the year and where numbers are limited.
2. The bees in a colony can communicate with one another and, once a good source of pollen or nectar is found, others will be recruited rapidly and the bees will stay with this one type of flower until something better appears. This is clearly a big advantage for the plant.
3. They are generalist pollinators and will use any flower from which they can get nectar and/or pollen.

Honey bees cannot however, use all flowers and there is some division amongst the various types of bee (and other insects) much of which is based on tongue length.

So, some bumble bees have longer tongues and can reach into deeper flowers, such as comfrey, whereas our honey bees are limited by a tongue length of about 7.5 mm.

The development and interdependency of the bees and the flowering plants forms a complex study. A good starting point is *Plants and Honey Bees, Their Relationships* by David Aston and Sally Bucknall.

Be prepared to be fascinated and to 'waste' a great deal of time watching bees on flowers.

Courtesy of Celia Davis Warwickshire BKA

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.**

RBKA Honey Show - Help & Promote



The Honey Show on Saturday the 10th October is a major opportunity for RBKA to promote the practice of Beekeeping whilst also educating the public both about the honey bee and this about pollen and pollination.

The 2015 Honey Show requires a significant amount of planning and coordination that is shared between...

October in Your Apiary



Hopefully, by now, your 2015 Summer honey crop has been extracted, food stores have been replenished by feeding a thick sugar syrup & you have at least started varroa treatment ... although it's getting late!

The ivy (*Hedera Helix*) nectar flow, which usually starts in September is late this year due to the cool wet ...

Calling ALL Members with Honey...



Do you already sell your honey or hive products through a regular local market stall or a deli store?

Why not get your outlet listed on our Public website?

Do you already sell direct to the public, or maybe you would like to?

Would you like to receive enquiries by e-mail via our Public website from members of the public ...

Winter Meetings: Next 7th Oct



From September through to March, we meet mostly (but not always!) on the first Wednesday of the month at the Woodhatch Centre, south of Reigate.

The programme, comprising a combination of informative talks, just for fun events, as well as ...

October Tips Checklist



October is the month when you should complete your hive preparations for the Winter.

By now you should have completed feeding your bees to ensure they have sufficient stores going into the Winter; but a number of beekeepers have been reporting the need for significant syrup feed - so if your ...

Courses by 'Beekeepers @ KSRC'



**KENT SCIENCE
RESOURCE CENTRE**

Only a very limited number of courses have been offered by "Beekeepers @ KSRC" this year but the concept, to provide opportunities for "Improver" beekeepers, remains strong.

Celia Perry forwards the following message from Bob Smith about a short series of courses that ...

Sussex BKA Convention



The Sussex Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention will be held in The Ashdown Room at the [Uckfield Civic Centre](#), Uckfield TN22 1AE, on 28th November 2015.

Registration will commence at 9:00am.

The cost of attending the convention is £25 including lunch and refreshments.

Order Sweat Shirts & Poloshirts NOW



Poloshirts and Sweat Shirts, available either in distinctive Burgundy or demure White and sporting discrete and stylish embroidered Reigate Beekeepers logo's, are able to be ordered.

Help to both support and promote Reigate Beekeepers by buying, wearing and of course looking great in these distinctive and practical garments.

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 !