

# Reigate Beekeepers



## BeeNews December 2015

### Photo opportunity of the Month



### Seasons Greetings

To wish our **BeeNews** readers the compliments of the season we feature a collage of Christmas Bees this month.

Can you spot the true photograph of a 'Christmas Bee' ?

May your bees be warm and secure this Christmas and well fed, just like their happy 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
<b>Dec, Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Winter Meeting</b> (19:30 - 21:30) 'Honey Bees & Ley Lines' by guest spkr Roger Patterson	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Paul Cleaver
<b>Jan, Wed 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Winter Meeting</b> (19:30 - 21:30) Jack Chapman's talk: 'Einstein, Honeybees & the Survival of the Human Race'	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Paul Cleaver
<b>Jan, Mon 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping Course</b> (19:30 - 21:30) Start of the 10 Week Winter course by David Rudland	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Gill Simpson
<b>Jan, Sat 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>SBKA Training Day: Preparing Honey &amp; Wax</b> (10am-4pm) Talks by Tom Salter, Andy Willis and Christine Stevens.	<b>Walton-on-Thames</b> Sandra Rickwood
<b>Feb, Wed 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Winter Meeting</b> (19:30 - 21:30) RBKA Event - 'Beekeeping Quiz Night'	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Paul Cleaver
<b>Feb, Sat 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>RBKA Spring Lunch</b> (Noon - 3:00pm) Early Spring get-together at the Grumpy Mole.	<b>Brockham Green</b> Andrew Buchanan
<b>Mar, Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Winter Meeting</b> (19:30 - 21:30) 'Marketing Hive Products' talk by guest Christine Stevens	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Paul Cleaver
<b>Mar, Sat 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11th Surrey Bee Day</b> (09:30 - 17:00) Bee Stories - Speakers and Topics tbc.	<b>Cobham Village Hall</b> Sandra Rickwood
<b>Mar, Mon 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping Course</b> (19:30 - 21:30) Last session of the Winter course by David Rudland	<b>Woodhatch Centre</b> Gill Simpson
<b>More dates?</b>	<b>The Members website has the full year's Diary Dates</b>	<a href="#"><b>Click Here</b></a>

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.**

### Protecting the Future

Clustered together within our Topical News section this month happen to be three reports that each provide insights into the complexities of bee life and the management strategies that bees demonstrate in their striving to thrive.

As 2015 draws to a close, we can all look back at what has been a remarkable year in so many ways for Reigate Beekeepers. The progress of the Pavilion building and members achieving beekeeping qualifications across the fullest possible spectrum of skill levels, all provide a tangible demonstration of how we have thrived as a Division.

As our Chairman eluded to in his closing remarks at our AGM, much of what has been achieved during the year has only been achievable courtesy of a relatively few either very generous or very active members. And quite a number of those same members have now either literally moved away, need to step down from 'front-line' involvement, or have declared their need to also do so during the next year.

Fresh energy, fresh ideas and perhaps fresh approaches to all that Reigate Beekeepers currently do and desire to do going forward are needed if we are to continue to thrive. The more members that can each give just some of their time, the less onerous each task or role becomes. Do please approach any Committee member to enquire about how you might be able to help Reigate Beekeepers in however small a way; towards making 2016 no less spectacular.

Two ways to immediately help will be to firstly bring a raffle prize (or two, or more) to the meeting on the 2nd December, when Roger Patterson talks to us about Honey Bees and Ley Lines. And secondly, to buy lots of raffle tickets that evening. All proceeds will go to **Bees Abroad**. Star prizes of a Food Hamper and a Bee Basket are being provided by **Maggie Minter** but lots of additional donated prizes are still needed. See you there.

*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**

### In Good Health.

by **Andrew Buchanan**

## Chairman's Chat

December is the quietest month in the beekeeping calendar for both bees and beekeepers. However, tasks such as fitting mouse guards to hive entrances and woodpecker protection around hives are jobs that should be carried out very soon if not already done. Our Winter Team has already visited the Henfold colonies several times to ensure that the bees are as winter-proof as possible.

The AGM, chaired by our President **Malcolm Broach**, was attended by a good number of members who learned that the Division is in good health in almost every respect. Judging by the speed with which the business of the meeting was carried out. Those present were very happy with all the reports of activity and results from the main areas of our work throughout the 2014/2015 year.

The fitting out of the Pavilion continues with a lot of time and effort from a small team dealing with plumbing, electricity, installing insulation,

cladding internal walls/ceilings and fitting kitchen units.

As I mentioned at the AGM, with RBKA's facilities increasing, so do tasks that need to be carried out effectively if our standards are to be maintained. Anyone who would like to volunteer time and effort to this end is encouraged to come forward and find how rewarding a greater involvement in our activities can be.

Don't forget to reserve a seat at the Spring Lunch on 6th February at The 'Grumpy Mole' in Brockham.

(Details are elsewhere in this edition of **BeeNews** and on our Members Website.)

Finally, if I don't see you at the December Winter Meeting (2nd December) -

**A MERRY XMAS and  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU ALL**

**Andrew Buchanan**  
01306 712773

## Apiary News

### Our Lawn Mower is Kaput

Do you have a redundant Ride-on Lawn Mower taking up valuable space in your garage or garden shed ?

After many hours maintaining and caring for our ride-on lawn mower, **Roy Cottington**, who regularly keeps the grass at Henfold to a reasonable height, has declared that the machine has finally died.



A new or second-hand machine must now be acquired.

But if anyone can answer the question posed above with a 'YES', would you consider passing it on to RBKA ?

If so, do please contact **Andrew Buchanan** on 01306 712773

### Winter Team Update

The first winter snow early on Saturday the 21st November did not dampen spirits amongst those of the Henfold Winter Team who turned out to check the hives and clean up the remaining feeders.

The hives were hefted, fondant added to two more hives and a damp roof was replaced.

So far all colonies are well and started flying as soon as the sun came out.

What was a poor start to the day ended as a bright and sunny, but chilly morning at Henfold.

Thank you to **Peter Moore** and **Richard Woodhouse** for their beekeeping and to **Mike Hill** for advice and guidance on redundant equipment. We will be emailing an invitation to Winter Team members to the next meeting ... Christmas, perhaps ?

From the **Henfold Apiary Management Team**

### Reigate Beekeepers Division AGM and Awards Presentations

Report

The Meeting on 11th November was opened and chaired by President, **Malcolm Broatch**.

Last year's AGM and EGM minutes were agreed and signed off without issue, with no matters arising. Officers reports already published were accepted as read.

This only left our Treasurer, **Vince Gallo**, to summarise the Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet detail, signed off by Auditor **Dick Cotton** and available to attendees of the meeting.

#### The Treasurer's Report

The I&E details were (happily) distorted by the donations received during the year from many members and four extremely generous donors in particular.

The consequentially high surplus for the year shown was not however a cash surplus. Instead, as was evident in the Balance Sheet, much of it has been capitalised in the form of the Pavilion building, the foundations it sits upon and some of the fitting-out already undertaken. After allowing for the capital expenditure, the underlying cash surplus for the year was approx £6,000; very much in line with the previous few 'normal' years.

Looking to the year ahead, the completion of the fitting out of the Pavilion building is fully funded. The only limiting factor now is the manpower drawn from within the membership wherever possible to actually do it.

Unfortunately Dick Cotton is now standing down as our Honary Auditor since he foresees the role becoming more difficult for him to undertake as the accounts finally move from a paperwork and simple spreadsheet system to being more fully computerised.

#### Election of Officers

Officers, Representatives and Trustee's standing were duly re-elected.

Chairman: **Andrew Buchanan**  
Vice Chairman: no appointment  
Hon. Secretary: **Gill Simpson**  
Hon. Treasurer: **Vince Gallo**  
Hon. Auditor: vacancy to be filled

Committee Members:

**Richard Bradfield, Bob Maurer, Maggie Minter, Mike Hill, Celia Perry.**

SBKA Representative:

**Celia Perry**

SBKA Trustee Nominee: **Andrew Buchanan**

Surrey Show Committee Rep.: **Bob Maurer**

#### Andrew's Other Business

**Andrew Buchanan** thanked the many members, ... "too many to name individually now" ... that had given their time during the year. In particular, those who had been working on the fitting out of the Pavillion.

Thanks were also expressed to **Paul Cleaver** for his inputs to the working of the Division. Paul had now stood down from the Committee, maybe to study for beekeeping exams, but largely to devote more time to his family and smallholding.

**Andrew Cornwall** had also felt the need to stand down from his Education Coordinator role due to increased work time commitments. The education programme he has created and had implemented, no doubt contributed to a lot of the twenty one members being able to take and all pass their Basic this year.

**Neil Hallum**, having now moved to Northamptonshire leaves the excellent Winter Maintenance programme he had established last year to continue under new management.

**Richard Stuart** has also just moved away to Hampshire, and it was announced that his role as Quartermaster has now been taken up by **Phil Elwell**.

Finally, **Richard Woodhouse** is standing down from his role as our Swarm Team's Coordinator, although he will still remain on the team.

Andrew reiterated a plea to all members to consider how they may be able to help in some way to continue the great work.

There being no other matters it only remained for **Malcolm Broatch**, assisted by **Celia Perry**, to present the Honey Show Trophies and Exam Certificates. See following page.

*(Please note, these are not formal Minutes of the AGM)*

## Presentation of Trophies and Certificates by our President, Malcolm Broatch

### Honey Show Trophies

Winners of Trophies at Reigate Beekeepers 2015 Honey Show were presented with their silverware:



**Andrew Boagey** receiving the **J.M.B Cup** for Class 6 - Two Containers of Cut Comb and the **Bramshaw Cup** for Class 10 - A Comb for Extraction.



**Geoff Blay**, receiving the **Tanner Cup** for Class 1/2 - Light/Medium Honey and the **Locket Bowl** for Class 15 - A Group of Products.



**Celia Perry** receiving the **Redhill Cup** for Class 20/21 - Mead



**Richard Bradfield**, receiving (then seriously fumbling) the **Novices Skep** for Class 5 - Novices Honey

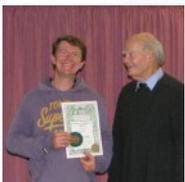


**Maggie Minter** receiving the **Reigate Cup** for 'Most Points in Show'

### BBKA Basic Assessment Certificates

Certificates & Badges presented to 13 of the 21 members awarded 'The Basic' this year. Pictured below, from left to right are .....

**Peter Moore, Sandy Benton, Geoff Blay, Sally Bennet, Jim Cooper, Simon Ford, Anna Slade, Adam McLaren, Janice Whitehead, Mike Lowe, Colin David, Karen Ford, Karen Thomas.**



Celia and a cameraman will endeavour to catch up with the remaining eight at future meetings.

### BBKA Module and Advanced Certificates



**Richard Ramsden**

- BBKA Module 6, Honey Bee Behaviour (Credit) and Intermediate Theory Certificates



**Alan Berridge**

- BBKA Module 6, Honey Bee Behaviour Certificate



**Celia Perry**

- BBKA Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry as well as Master Beekeeper Certificate and Badge.

Also visit the website report for BIGGER photos!

[Click here](#)

## National Honey Show Winners



This year's show got off to a great start for Reigate Beekeepers, with **Adam Leitch** being presented with his National Diploma in Beekeeping during the opening ceremony.

Throughout the three day event Reigate members were to be seen attending lectures, workshops, in the trade halls and serving as Show Stewards.

Then **Andrew Boagey, Richard Bradfield, Tim Burke, Bob Maurer, Maggie Minter** and **Meriel Spalding** between them achieved impressive placing's in five Open and eight Surrey County Classes.

So well, that at the show's closing awards ceremony, **Andrew** was presented with **FIVE** trophies ...



and **Meriel** received a trophy and a prize.



## Surrey Beekeepers' Association

Saturday 23rd January 10 till 4 pm

Venue: Walton-on-Thames  
(Full details sent with the confirmation of the booking. [Click here for flyer](#) with more info)

### Preparing Honey and Wax

It doesn't matter whether you give to friends, sell it, or enter your local honey show, we all want to be sure our honey and wax looks its best. These talks will be of interest to all beekeepers, but of particular value to anyone planning to take Module 2.

#### Topics

- **Preparing honey for sale or show.**  
Tom Salter
- **Wax processing.**  
Andy Willis
- **Marketing your hive Products.**  
Christine Stevens



£15 SBKA members  
£17 for non-members  
Includes a light lunch  
To reserve a place email:  
[rickwoodsuka@gmail.com](mailto:rickwoodsuka@gmail.com)



A **NEW** DATE FOR  
YOUR DIARY



## SPRING LUNCH

**Saturday 6th February  
2016**

12:15 for 1:00 pm  
at

**The Grumpy Mole  
Brockham Green**



Accompanying this **BeeNews** edition are details of the ever popular RBKA Spring Lunch.

The menu to choose from, prices and a Booking Form for you to complete and return are also included.

Why not join old and new members to reflect on the 2015 summer's beekeeping, Christmas, and the New Year and contemplate the possibilities for 2016. If you run out of topics why not get up to date with the Henfold Copse Development Project.

Don't delay booking your place(s) as there is a limit of thirty five people and it's 'first come first served'.

To book, please send/give a completed Booking Form together with your Cheque/Cash to:

Andrew Buchanan  
'Drumbeg',  
Weare Street, Capel, Surrey, RH5 5JA.

Not Later Than 3rd February 2016 Please.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Please note that the date (and venue) for this event is changed from the 28th January, as previously announced in the November **BeeNews**.

### Bees play Doctors and Nurses

As we approach the Winter and consider the benefits of a flu jab and perhaps visit our own nurse to receive the vaccination, it is interesting to reflect that honey bees also have doctors and nurses.

Sick bees may be nursed by doctors !

Bees are among the most industrious creatures on the planet, but honey bees still struggle when they are ill. Once a disease takes hold inside a hive, the bees can become sluggish and disorientated and many may die.

Now it seems honey bees may have a way of helping to keep their workforce healthy - by employing bees that feed special 'medicinal honey' to other members of the hive.



A group of worker bees called 'nurse bees', if they are infected with a parasite, selectively eat honey that has a high antibiotic activity, according to Silvio Erler of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany and his colleagues. These bees are also responsible for feeding honey to the larvae and distributing it to other members of the colony. So it's possible they are the hive's doctors, prescribing different types of honey to other bees depending on their infection. If that is true, it could be a big part of how bees fight disease.

In Erler's study, nurse bees infected with the gut parasite *Nosema ceranae* were given a choice of honeys. Three were made from the nectar of the plants black lotus,

sun-flower, and linden trees; whilst a fourth was given honeydew honey made from the secretions of scale insects or aphids. Each of the honeys was known to have antibiotic activity.

Bees with greater levels of infection tended to eat more of the sun-flower honey, which had the strongest antimicrobial activity. It reduced the level of infection in the bees that ate it by 7%, compared to the honey from the linden trees.

"Honeys are full of micronutrients, alkaloids and secondary plant compounds that are good for both bees and humans alike," says Mike Simone Finstrom of North Carolina State University in Raleigh. One study suggested they can increase the activity of honey bees' immunity genes, boosting their ability to fight disease.

A separate study from September by Erler's group suggests different honeys are effective against different diseases. While sunflower honey is good at preventing the growth of bacteria that cause American Foul Brood in bees, it is less effective against bacteria associated with European Foul Brood. However, linden honey was more effective against these bacteria.

Perhaps after all we should buy each of our bee colonies a jar of genuine Manuka honey for Christmas !!

*courtesy of Warwickshire BKA*

### Flying is Hard Work (for Bumble Bees)

*Inspired by the fascinating talk about bumble bees after the Surrey BKA AGM we include a brief explanation of their flying miracle.*

In flight a bumble bee flaps its wings 200 times per second (which equals 12,000 rpm), roughly equivalent to the speed of a high-revving motorbike engine. This generates a lot of heat, and comes at a cost: bumble bee flight requires a lot of energy.

A running man uses up the calories in a Mars bar in about one hour. A man-sized bumble bee (terrifying thought) would exhaust the same calories in less than thirty seconds.

Hummingbirds are often thought of as having exceptionally high metabolic rates, but a bumble bee's is roughly 75% higher.

They eat almost continually to keep warm, and raise their temperature to 30°C to fire up their flight muscles to be able to fly. Food energy is essential.

A bumble bee even with a full stomach is only ever about forty minutes from starvation.

If a bumble bee runs out of energy, she cannot fly, and if she cannot fly, she cannot get to flowers to get more food, so she is doomed.



## The Business Teachings of Honey Bees

### (1) Protect the Future

For good reasons bees don't focus exclusively on the most productive flower patches at any given time. Conditions change rapidly and they can ill afford wide swings in pollen and nectar intake. When a lucrative source of nectar is discovered, the entire colony doesn't rush off no matter how enriching the short-term benefits. The colony has internalised a very important natural rule: someday the nectar in that location will stop flowing and they need to be prepared to rapidly reallocate resources to other productive sites. The bees clearly advise through their behaviour, that overexploiting a rich patch just because it is there is a death trap.

### (2) Distribute Authorities

With many thousands of employed workers, the queen couldn't possibly direct all of the actions in the field from her command post. While the queen is the generic heart and soul of the hive, she is by no means the only leader. Those closest to the information make the relevant decision. Decentralisation is one of the hallmarks of the honeybee colony. Foraging decisions, for example, are made by the foragers. The information doesn't travel up to the queen and back again. Bees have clear objectives. They are excellent communicators are able to quickly take in and consolidate information, and transform that information into

coordinated action. They are reliable workers that are very good at what they do.

### (3) Balanced Diversity is Important

One of the principle ways that bees moderate extreme behaviours is through genetic diversity. This produces bees within the same hives that are differentially sensitive to environmental conditions. For example, bees keep the temperature of the hive relatively constant at about 35°C. However they don't do this all at the same time. Fortunately, the bees differ in their sensitivity to temperature and alter their behaviour at different times in response to climatic conditions.

### (4) Prepare for Leadership Changes

A colony headed by a high-quality queen has a more robust worker population and greater honey yield. It matters a great deal who is at the top. Consequently, it is not surprising that the workers in the hive pay close attention to the queen's ability to propagate and are sensitive to declines in her performance. The queen's ability to lead is determined ultimately by the minions, a truth unfortunately lost in many organisations. In the instance of bees, the voice of workers is loud and clear - the colony prevents costly voids in leadership by planning for successors in advance of the obvious need.

*courtesy of Michael O'Malley, Leadership Blog*

## Questions & Answers

### Question - What is vitellogenin protein and why is it important to honey bees ?

We know that pollen is very important to honey bees, and one component of pollen in particular a protein called vitellogenin (Vg) may be considered to be their elixir of life.

Vitellogenin (from the latin vitellus, yolk, and gener, to produce) is a synonymous term for the gene and the expressed protein.



Pollen the all-important source of protein

### A few facts about vitellogenin

Until a few years ago Vg , did not really feature much in the bee literature, but is taking on greater significance the more we learn about it.

Vitellogenin is not something specific to honey bees, or even insects. It seems to be found in most animals and certainly in all those that lay eggs, and its structure varies depending upon the animal concerned. Also, it is a very complex substance made up of a mixture of carbohydrate, fat and protein and is technically called a glucolipophosphoprotei, but the protein is the dominant part, constituting some 91% and it is as a protein that we are interested in it. In general it is employed as a precursor for the substances in the yolk of eggs but in honey bees it has other, far-reaching, functions which impact on the lives of worker bees particularly in important ways.

## **The role of Vg in honey bee development**

Vitellogenin build-up begins in the older worker honey bee pupa and is accelerated once the young bee emerges and starts to eat large quantities of pollen. It is manufactured in the fat bodies and, when the bee is about five days old, it begins to be used to produce brood food. However, the levels in the haemolymph remain high provided that the bee has a good supply of pollen, until the bee is about two weeks old, when its vg levels begin to decline, presumably depleted by brood food production, and the bee gradually changes to become a forager.

At the same time a second substance, Juvenile Hormone (JH) interacts with the Vg and as levels of vg fall, levels of JH rise. (It is probable that high levels of vg suppress production of JH.) Increasing levels of JH precipitate aging in the bee and, once she becomes a forager, our bee is on the slippery downhill slope to death. She can, however, be rejuvenated to some extent if she starts to eat more pollen and her Vg levels rise. Under those circumstances older bees can feed larva.

You may be asking what practical significance all this has. A bee deprived of pollen does not produce the normal amount of Vg and becomes a forager much earlier. It is not able to feed so many larvae and its overall life will be shortened. These two facts will have quite a dramatic effect on colony build-up, so protein, in the form of pollen, and the Vg that is produced from it, have a fundamental influence on the growth, and ultimate size, of the colony.

## **Vitellogenin and the queen**

The queen has high levels of Vg maintained throughout her life and this confers longevity while allowing her to remain fertile.

## **The role of Vg in winter bees**

It appears that the ability of our honey bees to produce large amounts of Vg is the key to winter survival in temperate regions. Young bees emerging in August and September (and later) consume large quantities of pollen, just as their summer sisters do, but do not use it to produce brood food. They put the vg produced from the pollen into store, so, during the Winter, the fat bodies of the workers are

plump and white and collectively represent a huge protein store. When the early brood appears this Vg can be used to produce brood food and start the colony into its spring build-up.

Since shortage of Vg shortens the life of a bee, winter bees are in trouble if they do not have sufficient pollen in the later part of the year.

A further complication is varroa (isn't it always?), as varroa-infested pupae result in bees that are unable to make and store as much Vg. If many winter bees are in poor condition the colony may not survive until the Spring.

## **Vitellogenin and the bee's immune system**

We know that Vg is important in mopping up some of the free radicals that circulate in the bees' haemolymph, so enhancing the immune system and contributing to the bee's health, but very recently some new work has been published which sheds further light on the subject of immunity, and may have far reaching and beneficial results.

In mammals, antibodies, which confer protection against specific diseases, can be passed to the offspring via the milk that is fed to them. Bees do not have antibodies, but it seems that fragments of pathogens which gain access to the bee's body are attached to Vg and fed to the queen in royal jelly. These then pass into the queens fat bodies and are passed onto the eggs (remember that Vg's prime function is in yolk production).

This, in effect, vaccinates the embryo against those pathogens and the young bee is able to produce antimicrobial peptides in response to the presence of those pathogen fragments. This is potentially very exciting and may lead to a method of disease prevention by using the diet.

## **Learning more**

If you want to know more about vitellogenin you can find information on the website [scientificbeekeeping.com](http://scientificbeekeeping.com), or look up papers by Gro Amdam and her associates.

*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.**

#### NHS - Results for Reigate Members



The National Honey Show has to be one of, if not the most significant gathering and display of beekeeping crafts in the UK ... if not the World, judging by the international visitors and entrants it also attracts.

It was also held from 29th to the 31st October on our doorstep, in Weybridge ...

#### December in Your Apiary



Your colonies should by now, be well prepared for the winter months; housed in weatherproof and pest-proof hives, with low numbers of varroa and ample supplies of winter stores.

We are entering the period when these preparations start to pay off, enabling your colonies to survive whatever winter 2015/16 throws at them & emerge next ...

#### Our Lawn Mower is Kaput!



Do you have a redundant Ride-on Lawn Mower taking up valuable space in your garage or garden shed ?

After many hours of maintaining the Association's ride-on lawn mower, *Roy Cottingham*, who regularly keeps the grass at Henfold to a reasonable height, has declared that it has finally died. (the mower ... not the grass!)

#### BBKA ... - Have Your Say



Over the last twelve years the BBKA has grown significantly. In 2003 there were 60 Area Associations and 8,463 members. Today there are 69 Area Associations and around 25,500 members. Twelve years ago members were mostly interested in producing honey but British beekeeping has changed much over the last ...

#### December Tips Checklist



Tasks at this time of the year are all about protecting the hives and ensuring our bees survive the Winter, and with predictions of cold weather it may be wise to read the tips about hive insulation in the November 2013 edition of *BeeNews*. The bees will be huddled in a ball to keep warm, however they do fly out ...

#### 'My Life on a Plate' - down our way



The final episode of 'My Life on a Plate' featuring celebrity *Anneka Rice*, was transmitted on Friday 13th November at 15:45 hrs on BBC1 and included 4 minutes of footage filmed during July with Reigate Beekeepers. <http://bbc.in/1WQVlel>. ... the episode includes a hive inspection at Henfold

#### Great British Bake Off is looking...



The Great British Bake Off is back and Love Productions, makers of the BBC series, are currently looking for home bakers to take part in the next (seventh) series. And they are asking members of beekeeping associations ...

Do you fancy putting your skills to the test?  
Or do you know someone who might?

#### Training Day - Preparing Honey & Wax



It doesn't matter whether we give Honey to friends, sell it, or enter your local honey show ... we all want to make sure our honey and wax looks its best.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 10 til 4pm

These talks will be of interest to all Beekeepers but of particular value to anyone planning to take Module 2.



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 !