



Volume 10 issue 4

Norfolk Beekeepers' Association

# Buzzword

Join us the Norfolk Show in the Bee Tent

June 2010

June 30th and July 1st

## New Members.

**W**e welcome more new members this month to the Association:-Mrs J Cave, East Carleton, Dr P. Schutte, Wicklewood, Mrs C. Buchan, Swafield. Mr G Underhill, Rackheath, Mr P D Sutton, Spooner Row, Ms S J Vaughan, Little Melton, and Mr S Johnston, Norwich.

We hope we will be able to meet you at some of our events during the year.

Graham Ford

## Jeff Rounce silver salver

**J**ust to remind NBKA members that nominations for this prestigious award are to be made before the Norfolk Show to our hard working secretary Jean Aldous.

**C**opy for next *Buzzword* by 14th June-please.

Copy for *2011 Federation Year Book* by November 15th Please. Many thanks

## Norfolk Beekeepers' Bee Tour and Bee Health.

### Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Start . 11 am at the apiary of Mr M Barker, Lodge farm, Dereham Road, Garveston, Norwich, NR9 4QT.

12.30 Lunch at Garvestone. Please bring packed lunch.

1.30 pm. At the Apiary of Mrs Jill Tinsey, 1 Old School Cottages, Etling Green, East Dereham, NR20 3EU

3.00 pm. The Apiary of Mr Trevor Nash. Herne Lane, Toftwood. Smiths Farm House NR19 1QE, Herne Lane is on the Shipdham side of Toftwood, on the right travelling towards Shipdham.

The tour will give you a chance to see other Beekeepers' apiaries. Keith Morgan will be present and will be showing how to check the health of colonies as well as bringing you up to date on the latest in Bee Health.

It may be possible to share transport if you are interested please contact Paul Metcalf on 01603 759346 to arrange to leave from Easton Apiary at 10.15.

Paul Metcalf

## Bees in Blickling

**I**n the course of swarm collecting, I came across the following lady who would love to have someone keep bees in her garden.

Neville Thrower

Angie  
[angiepartis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angiepartis@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel 01263-733721  
6 Park Gates  
Blickling

## Membership Secretary.

**T**hose of you who attended the AGM will know that Ian Watkinson did not seek re election to the committee and therefore stood down as Vice Chairman. Ian was also Membership Secretary and as the appointment of Membership Secretary is made by the Executive, they feel that for administrative and practical reasons the position of Membership Secretary should be held by a person who is a current member of the committee. Therefore for the time being until and a appointment is made by

the Executive the position of Membership Secretary is now being held jointly between the Chairman and the Treasurer.

The Executive would like to put on record their thanks to Ian for his commitment to the Association who has, as well as Vice Chairman, also been Chairman, ADM representative and a member of the Executive for many years. Ian's beekeeping knowledge is still available as he remains a member of NBKA.

Graham Ford.

## John Everett's Demonstration

**I**t was typical Spring Bank Holiday weather, over cast, cold and we had gales rain and hail but interspersed with a little sunshine. I rang John an hour before his demonstration start time to see if it was still on and he said come along for the talk but we may not be opening up any hives. We all sat in his workshop while the British weather did it's worst outside and listened to a very interesting talk by John on various aspects of Bee Keeping including, Queen mating, pollination, and varroa control. We then watched John's assistant show us with ease the benefit of putting together a commercial brood box using only eight screws and polypropolene glue. There was then a brief break in the weather and on second attempt we donned

our veils, ventured outside and looked inside a commercial beehive and spotted food stores, brood and queen. We finished the afternoon with hot drinks and cake chatting by the fireside. Thank you John and co workers for an interesting and worthwhile Bank holiday afternoon, despite the weather, and I look forward to seeing the wild flower seeds you gave us spring into life and attract many bees and insects into our garden, weather of course allowing.

Ken Buck

## Summer Outing on Friday 16th July Cost £7

**A** trip on Barton Broad on board Ra (Britain's first solar powered passenger boat) gives us the chance to hear about Europe's leading lake restoration project. Abundant wildlife and excellent views are a recipe for a good day out. Two trips have been booked leaving Gay's Staithe (from Neatishead, follow signs to 'Boardwalk') at **10.00am and 11.30am** - Ra is accessible to wheelchair users. The trip could be combined with a boardwalk trail through woodland surrounding

Barton Broad or a trip to nearby Ranworth to climb the church tower! There is ample parking.

Spaces are limited so please apply early. Cheques should be made payable to Norfolk Beekeepers and sent to Dunton Cottage, Broad Road, Worstead. Norfolk, NR28 9RU

Lynne Pettit

## Focus group Volunteers please.

**I** am undertaking post graduate research in the school of Environmental Science at the University of East Anglia and am interested in the perceptions of the Bee keeping community on the current decline in the bee population.

Would anyone be kind enough to allow me to do one to one interviews on this subject during the early summer and perhaps to attend some focus group meetings so that I

could hear your views, as a group on the problem? Everyone will remain anonymous, but the results, from the informed beekeeping community may help draw more attention to the bee decline and add to the body of knowledge on the subject.

Caroline Senter

From: Caroline Senter (Mrs)  
([csenter@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:csenter@tiscali.co.uk))"

## Exams

**A** ndy Smith of Brooke has passed Modules 3 (Bee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning) and 4 (Honeybee Biology) and has been awarded the Intermediate Theory Certificate.

Applications are now being processed for the Basic Assessment? Anyone wishing to take the Assessment can find a copy of the syllabus and the application form on [http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations\\_and\\_assessments.php](http://www.britishbee.org.uk/examinations_and_assessments.php) on the BBKA website. Completed forms should be sent to the relevant Examinations Secretary.

**DON COOPER OF ROUGHTON BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES WILL BE TRADING AS NORMAL IN 2010– BUT TRADING IN TANDEM WITH HELEN DIXON OF ALBY CRAFTS CENTRE SITUATED ON THE MAIN A140, COAST SIDE OF AYLSHAM..... STOCK WILL BE HELD IN BOTH PLACES.**

BEEKEEPERS WILL HAVE MORE CHOICE OF WHERE TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES. ORDERS CAN ALSO BE MADE THROUGH HELEN'S "ON-LINE" SALES SITE.

HELEN IS A BEEKEEPER AND A GIFTED SCULPTOR – YOU CAN ALSO BROWSE AROUND THE CRAFT CENTRE AND VISIT THE EXTENSIVE GARDENS, WHICH INCLUDES AN OBSERVATION HIVE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING DURING THE ACTIVE SEASON.

ANY ORDERS FOR NUCS NEED TO BE PLACED VERY SOON TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. (CONTACT DON)

DON COOPER	HELEN DIXON
ROUGHTON	ALBY CRAFTS
01263 761517	07961 204241
(ANGLIA CLAY SUPPLIES)	

Workshop closed  
Mondays and Tuesdays.

## Apiary offer

**H**ello, I contacted you about 2 yrs go about having local beekeepers keep a hive in my field. Since then, Debbie and Phil have kept a hive with me. It has been wonderful.

I have friends in North Walsham and Spa Common. Both have very large gardens with young fruit orchards, water nearby, and insect friendly flowers who have orchards and would love bees kept with them.

So if you have any other local beekeepers who wish to keep bees with them because they do not have the facilities, please let me know. Bees need every help they can get, and I can guarantee that these people are not poison sprayers.

Gillian Davidson. 01692 407309

E mail: [gillcarolan@googlemail.com](mailto:gillcarolan@googlemail.com)

## Varroa

**V**arroat *destructor* is a parasitic mite that bites honey bees and honey bee larvae and sucks their haemolymph (blood). It is about the size of a big full stop!!!

### History

The mite used to be confined to SE Asia living on the local honey bee *Apis cerana*. It crossed species to our honey bee *Apis mellifera ssp* in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has spread worldwide. There are only a few islands that remain varroa free. It was first found in the UK in 1992 but probably had been present for a year or two before it was discovered. It is now endemic throughout the UK.

### Life history

The mites you see are mated females. They can live on adult bees and enter larval cells just before the cell is sealed. The mite lays a male egg followed by female eggs.

The male hatches first and mates with his sister(s) as they emerge. This leads to inbreeding and some mite failure. The only chance of cross breeding is if two mites enter the same cell as it is being sealed. When the adult bee emerges from its cell the male varroa and any immature female varroa mites present die but the mated females escape to attack other larvae in the colony.

Varroa prefer to breed in drone cells, they are attracted there by pheromones (kairomones) and can produce five new mites in drone cells.

(This is why drone cell removal is a good biological control and failure to remove drone cells can lead to varroa population explosion). The adult mite may survive to infest three generations of larvae.

### Why is Varroa a problem?

Early biological models estimated that a colony could survive until the varroa population reached 100,000 mites. It is now 800.

Varroa is known to transmit several viruses and it is the viruses that do the real damage. If you see bees with deformed wings your bees have deformed wing virus thanks to varroa. All viruses are invisible even under a light microscope but reduce the life of adult bees and hence foraging time.

You cannot treat viruses so you have to **vigorously** control varroa (the vector) as soon as you see your bees have a problem. I am sure no beekeeper would let their bees die for the honey crop.

Routinely treat bees **at the beginning of August** with thymol products. This means that bees hatching in the autumn (long life/winter bees) will be varroa/viruses free, consider using oxalic acid as well in Dec/Jan and use integrated pest management like open mesh floors, drone cell removal, shook swarm and dusting with icing sugar. Monitor your varroa population so you can estimate your varroa population.

It is almost certain that the problems bees have had in recent years e.g. CCD have had more to do with inadequate varroa control, viruses transmitted by varroa and stresses put on bees by beekeepers than cold winters, farmers spraying or anything else we care to blame.

John Everett Master Beekeeper

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## NORFOLK BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

### *Buzzword diary*

- Sat Jun 12<sup>th</sup> Apiary tour. To be arranged Event Manager Lorraine Gibson 01553 674051 WNKL BKA
- Sat Jun 19<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Preparing exhibits for show. Honey/wax/mead & cakes. Event manager Carolyne Liston 01603 893330. Easton College Sports & Leisure Centre
- Jun 30<sup>th</sup> & Jul 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Norfolk Show. Event manager Pat Marshall 01328 851475  
Costessy show ground NR5 0TT
- Jul 11<sup>th</sup> Abbey farm open day. PE31 6BT Event manager Terry Gibson 01553 674051  
WNKL BKA
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Jul Summer outing on the river. Event manager Lynne Pettit. 01692 536017  
See Page 2 for details
- Jul 28<sup>th</sup> Sandringham flower show. Event Manager Lorraine Gibson 01553 674051 WNKL BKA
- Sat Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Preparing your bees for winter. Easton Apiary. NR9 5DX  
Event manager Paul Metcalf 01603 759346

**V**ery special demo at Easton with Carolyne Liston, preparing exhibits for show.  
Honey/wax/mead and cakes.  
Event manager Carolyne Liston  
01603 8933300.  
2.30pm Saturday 19th June



#### *Buzzword* connections

Secretary NBKA Jean Aldous, Ferndown, Swardeston Lane, Lower East Carleton,  
Norwich NR14 8LF Tel 01508 578863

Secretary WNKLBA. Lorraine Gibson, 17 Ffolkes Drive, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 3BX  
Tel: 01553 674051. E-mail: [sec.wnklba@virgin.net](mailto:sec.wnklba@virgin.net).

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