



Website : www.wnklba.co.uk

Next Event

Grand Opening of New Apiary

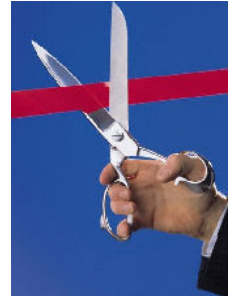


Henry Bellingham M.P.



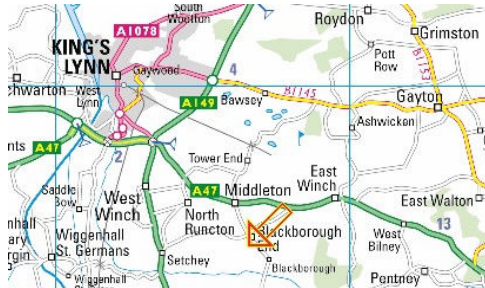
Association Apiary – Blackborough End

The Grand Opening will be on **Saturday 4th April** at 1 p.m. for 1.30 p.m. with Henry Bellingham to officially open the new association apiary on that day. This is a tremendous achievement for the Association and keeps bees in the news too. Public support is important, so we want to put on a good show, with press present. There will then be a beekeeping demonstration 'opening up' for the first inspection of the year



of

Please do come along if you possibly can.



Sat Nav : PE32 1SQ

Directions : Take the A47 King's Lynn road toward Dereham About 4 miles from KL, turn off toward Blackborough End. There will be 'WNKLBA' signs directing you in.

Research

E.A.R.S



We are the lead association in E.A.R.S – The Eastern Associations Research Studentship – a 4 year PhD studentship to study varroa under Dr Stephen Martin at Sheffield University. Beekeepers in East Anglia have put up some £16,000 over 4 years and have been successful in getting grants from Biotechnical and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to make up to £100,000

Professor Douglas Kell, BBSRC Chief Executive said: "It is very valuable for researchers to work alongside industrial partners; by working with people who have practical experience of keeping bees, this student will be able to set their research in the important context of the agricultural industry."

Tim Lovett, President of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) said, "This is most encouraging. The BBSRC is a major and important research funder and it is notable that they have chosen to back a topical and much needed piece of work which will hopefully help us to meet the challenge of the varroa mite."

For more, see WNKLBA Website, inc. press release, BBKA and Beekeepers Quarterly.

The current issue of The Beekeepers Quarterly is online at www.bkg.org.uk

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We are a member of eBEES – the electronic newsletter exchange for beekeepers

Contacts :



The Committee

Retiring Members

New Committee



The Annual General Meeting on Saturday 14th March saw several changes to the committee. Firstly, we must say "thank you" to Ernie Dix and Trixie Dix (BELOW) for the tireless support for the Association. Ernie has retired as Chair after 34 years in the association, in which time he has held most of the key offices. It is thanks to his enlightened hand steering the committee over recent years

that we are such a vibrant group of beekeepers. The Association has been rightly famed for its cream teas and Trixie has been at the heart of the catering team. We wish them the best of health and happiness in their 'retirement'. As a mark of the respect in which he is held, Ernie was offered honorary membership, which he has agreed to take up once his current subscription expires. Also retiring at the AGM were David Baddeley our Treasurer for many years : it is David we must thank for the 'Sailing Club' as the venue for committee meetings. John Laws stood down as Vice-Chair but has agreed to continue running the famed 'hive-building' course



← Our **President** is Don Cooper who began his beekeeping at school aged 12 under the guidance of Fred Richards, Norfolk's County Beekeeping Instructor and won the Schools County Shield in 1955 for .. 'Naming 100 things you may find in a hive'. He went on to work for Brother Adam at Buckfast for a total of 6 years and later as a Bee Disease Inspector for 25 years. After retirement in 2000, Don set up a 150 hive honey farm although he is now concentrating on producing nucs and queens.

Vice Presidents are **Henry Bellingham M.P.** and former High Sheriff of Norfolk **Sir Jeremy Bagge**

→ **Chairman** Jill Tinsey has been at the heart of the association for many years as organiser of the Honey Show at Sandringham and latterly as part of the 4-person Education sub-committee that has been so active in recent years. Jill works in midwifery and is also a Guide leader. In her spare time she is on the National Honey Show committee and has recently been invited to apply to become a BBKA examiner.



← **Vice Chairman** Penny Snell heads the Science Administration group at a large research institute in Cambridge; weekends are busy on our smallholding where her special responsibilities are the bees (of course) and the alpacas. She has been keeping bees for six years now and has five hives. She sells honey locally and to colleagues at work and usually gets a good crop of honey (although last year was a disaster – as it was for everyone else). During the summer months Penny is to be found manning stands at the Sandringham Show and at other Norfolk events where WNKLBAA has display stands. She has been a committee member for 6 years and has a particular interest in encouraging young people to enjoy bees and hopefully to take up beekeeping, if not now, then in the future.

→ **Treasurer** Chris is a retired Director of drug discovery research in the international pharmaceutical industry, but now applies his energies to the five-acre smallholding in Runcton Holme where Penny and Chris have pigs, sheep, alpacas and poultry and bees. Penny is the hands-on beekeeper; whereas Chris is involved in hive construction, honey harvesting and label design and printing. Chris is also an active member of Norfolk Smallholders Training Group where he is membership secretary and run the website. He strongly believes that scientific research will provide a better understanding of varroa mediated infection and CCD.



← **Secretary** Lorraine Gibson As well as managing 'the girls', together with her husband Terry, Lorraine also enjoys a number of other interests which include reading, cooking, local history research as well as being a keen amateur gardener and plantswoman.



← After an I.T. career in 'the City', **David Bancalari** (Webmaster and Bee-Aware Editor) retired into beekeeping, as well as running fishing lakes and a hairdressing salon. He is keenly interested in research : He and Terry put together the paperwork for the EARS bid..

→ Any army marches on it stomach and **Joan Burton**, Jill's mum, ensures that shows and events are a pleasant experience for all with her cooking



← **Brian Gemmell** (Training Apiary Co-ordinator) is an old hand, having been a beekeeper in different parts of the UK for almost 40 years. His experience has been a considerable influence in the Education sub-committee



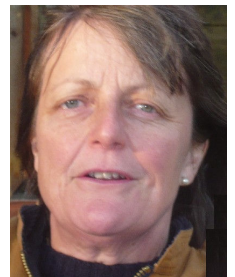
→ **Terry Gibson** (Education) was introduced to beekeeping some 30 years ago by a colleague in the police force. He kept bees for 7 years and then was 'moved on'. He took up beekeeping again after retirement and got some bees from Bill Disdle, who managed to persuade Lorraine to join in the fun too.



← **Stuart Grant** took up beekeeping in 2008, after retirement, to complement his gardening, particularly fruit growing. Stuart's background is in manufacturing, in papermaking, chemicals and then plastics.



→ **Judy Heal** (NBKA Representative)'s mother and grandmother kept bees. Destiny has led Judy to take theory at Easton and practical at WNKLBA so that she could fill her WBCs with bees. She also runs a B&B so customers get honey for breakfast, which gets them all talking bees and there is great sympathy for bee health issues.



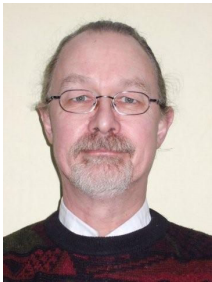
← **Keith Morgan** (Seasonal Bee Inspector) keeps many colonies in West Norfolk where he manages to combine beekeeping with his duties as a bee inspector and also attending to markets as far afield as London.



Colin and Kate Sayer are recent beekeepers having taken the plunge on one of Terry Gibson's courses. They are both enthusiastic and questioning – a good starting point. Kate's organisational pedigree has come to the fore and she has taken on the role of Show Secretary.

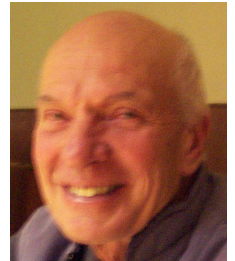


← At a very early age **Kelly Thrower** had a fascination with collecting insects, amphibians, birds and most other things and kept them in her bedroom much to Mum's horror. After Horticulture college and a few years away working on various estates around the country, Kelly returned home again to develop her own business in Gardening. Now, with Dad (Barry Thrower) and sister (Tracey Garrad) she has been on various beekeeping courses and is a valued addition to the committee



← **Joe Trattle** (Membership Secretary) has been keeping bees for some 20 years, having been initiated by his grandfather, also a beekeeper. Joe 'The Tekkie' runs a computer company providing I.T. Support for small businesses and private clients at www.thetekkie.co.uk

→ **John Woodford** (BBKA Representative) keeps 12 hives on 2 sites in the King's Lynn area. He has been keeping bees for about 12 years and has passed the BBKA basic exam. John intends to breed some gentle Queens from his own stocks. He likes giving illustrated talks to any organisation who will have him! John is a believer in IPM as the way forward in controlling bee diseases.



← **Margaret Woodford**. As well as sorting out John, Margaret has been a professional florist for many years and a very experienced caterer too. Margaret will be looking after the Honey Show entries this year, where her organizational skills will be very evident.



Buying and Selling

Do you want bees? Do you want to sell equipment? Terry Gibson is operating an informal "information exchange" for the association. He can be contacted on **01553-674051** eMail : bee-aware@gmx.com

We have received a call from a Mrs. Stephanie Johnston of Terrington St. Clements who does not want to become a beekeeper, but would like some bees in her garden. She has approx 1/3 of an acre, does have a few neighbours but her garden is also backed by fields and apparently she is a plantaholic. She is on 01553 828464. Give her a call if you can help.

Member Events

Clive Wakes-Miller 26th Mar

Clive Wakes-Miller will be giving a talk on "The sacred bee" and also future advances. On Thursday 26th March 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall, Hunstanton.

Margaret Rickard
30/31st May
28th June

Clear View Gardens will be open on **30th and 31st May** for the National Garden Scheme, and **28th June** for MAGPAS, from 10am-5pm .

The June opening will have John Crocker playing with the Muddy Boots Jazz. The entry fee is £3 (Children under 16 free). This, and the refreshment (homemade cakes) money, will all go to these Charities. We'd love to see you, your families & friends.

Margaret and Graham Rickard 01945 410724. (5 minutes from Wisbech centre) Cross Lane, off Bevis Lane or Lords Lane, Wisbech St Mary, Cambs PE13 4TX

A small 'Hum' of beekeepers to man the Bee Stall on 28th June would be welcome – please phone Margaret on 01945 410724 if you can help.



I was surprised and amused to see a picture of my old shop bike making an appearance at the **Sandringham Show**. I remember Mr & Mrs Rayner's visit to Orkney, rather more than 20 years ago, I suspect.

I should point out that Kirkness & Gorie held a Royal Warrant as Supplier of Honey to HM The Queen, not HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. We held the Royal Warrant from 1st January 1978 until 31st December 2007, when changes in demand and supply, not to mention difficulties caused by living some 250 miles from the source of the honey – Orkney honey – meant I was unable to continue supplying the Royal Household.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Kirkness Gorie

Kirkness & Gorie, 112 Craigmount Avenue North, Edinburgh, EH4 8HJ.



New name and direction for Microscopy Study Group



The Waveney Microscopy Study Group has been relaunched and renamed as the "Iceni" Microscopy Study Group (IMSG), to establish a strong brand with links to all the East Anglian beekeeping associations, but with independent club status. It was felt this way forward would allow the IMSG a chance to grow and retain its self determination, as well as solve the confusion of having a similar name to the Waveney Beekeepers Group.

The fourteen founder members of the group have been nominated as committee officers, practically everyone has a job to do and the club is truly democratic.

The IMSG has a number of aims:

- to advance the study of bee disease using a microscope, leading to advanced training by the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the Quekett Microscopical Society;
- to encourage and train club members to take the BBKA microscopy examination (7 members have entered for this exam);
- encourage self and directed study in a range of microscopy studies;
- promote microscopy for beekeepers;
- support microscopy study in other fields, such as pollen study and honey analysis.

Additionally, we would encourage local beekeepers who suspect they have nosema to take fresh bee samples and scrapings from the outside of their hive(s) to be analysed by our club members, within one or two days of a meeting (see list below).

The following dates have been established for future club meetings at Esmeralda's, Grange Farm Centre, Barsham, Suffolk:- 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June and 4th July

For further information contact Peter Sunderland 01508 493398: ajudd_34@yahoo.co.uk or Keith Wilkinson 01502 741201 keithwilkinson4@btinternet.com

Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)

As of April The National bee Unit (NBU) will no longer be part of the Central Science Laboratory, but will be part of FERA. The new agency will bring together Defra's Central Science Laboratory, Plant Health Division, Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate and the Plant Variety Rights Office and Seeds Div.

National Audit Office Report on the NBU was published in early March. You can find details at www.nao.org.uk

The NBU will need the active support of beekeepers to implement a strategy for honeybee health, and should build its relationships with beekeeping stakeholders by adopting a more consultative style.

Without a more accurate and comprehensive register of beekeepers, the practical guidance offered by the National Bee Unit is only available to limited numbers. Before adopting mandatory measures such as compulsory registration, the NBU should build on beekeepers' receptiveness to bee inspectors' advice, and, amongst other things adopt throughout England the approach taken in the National Bee Unit's Eastern Region, to cleanse and update the database of registered beekeepers; assess what incentives could be offered to encourage more beekeepers to register, such as better training and advice from experienced bee inspectors. Finally there is a recommendation for more cooperation in research.

ASSOCIATION APIARY - BEEKEEPER

If you are able to help out at the association apiary, looking after the bees for a week or two in the season, please call Brian Gemmell, our apiary coordinator on 01945 880837. Anyone with a year or more experience can help and experts will be on call if needed.





Severe Hedge Cutting

We have been concerned at the severity of hedge cutting and have written to M.P.s, Natural England and the NFU about it. Here is the text from the latest response :

Dear Lorraine,
Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 February 2009 regarding the impact of increased severity of hedge cutting on pollen and nectar collection activities of honeybees and other pollen collecting species. We understand your concerns and I will do what I can to allay your fears.



There has been a change under the Environmental Stewardship scheme in relation to hedge cutting. Hedges managed under ELS (Entry Level Scheme) or Higher Level Scheme may be cut (according to the individual agreement) on bi or tri-annual basis, rather than annually. The thinking behind this is that many hedge plants typically only flower on last year's growth, so being left a year should permit flowering in year 2, thereby providing more pollen and nectar opportunities for wildlife. However the downside of hedge cutting after an extra year's growth is that it can result in the appearance of greater damage as the branches have time to grow that much thicker.

Having made enquiries, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) also inform me that normally the most marked change in hedge cutting "style" results from a change in ownership or new staff. Your point is well made that our members are aware of the importance of pollinators to the food chain, environment and humans and we do take action to enhance that understanding. For example, we recently highlighted the importance of hedges for bees and other invertebrates to members via our members' magazine (I've included a copy of the article). Other examples of our members support include sowing nectar rich areas of wild flowers adjacent to hedges and watercourses and/or sowing a nectar flower mixture into their farmed landscape. This boosts the availability of essential food sources for a range of nectar-feeding insects, including butterflies and bumblebees. I hope this helps explain some of the observations your members have made and provides some comfort to you that our members do take appropriate action to help support the essential work of pollinators. Please do contact me if I can help further.

NFU Environmental Policy Adviser 01638-672131

Swarm Collection



SWARM COLLECTION

If you are able to help out collecting swarms this year, please call Patrick Duhig, our swarm coordinator on 01553 828651 with your details :

Name, area/times available and land/mobile phone numbers.

Growing Bee Friendly Plants



Last year I planted a small area of our land with a mixture of bee friendly plants. I bought Borage, Mustard, Phacelia and Buckwheat and planted them all together. This year I have done the same but also added wild poppy that I collected from a neighbouring hedgerow. The first four seeds came from Kings and three are marketed as Green Manure. No doubt other seedsmen supply them. They were left to flower and set seed.

I did not get a record honey crop but it was pleasant to see numerous bumble bees as well as our honey bees exploiting the bounty.

"Pick your own" customers were fascinated by the foraging insects and the colour.

It's still not too late to plant a mix this year

John Everett