



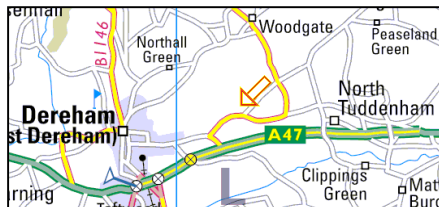
Website : [www.wnklba.co.uk](http://www.wnklba.co.uk)

## Next Event

Learning how to show honey.

**This Saturday**

**Saturday 13th June 2.30 pm 1 School Cottages, Etling Green, Dereham NR20 3EU** (just off the Dereham Bypass on the A47 to Norwich)



### Preparing Honey for Exhibiting

With Jill Tinsey. We really do want to encourage **you** to enter our honey show. Come along to learn what you need to do to win a prize. Even if you have not got bees there are many classes to enter and we have added a new novice class to give you even more chance. This is the time to find out about exhibiting in our Honey Show and

get some good practical tips from a master at exhibiting, who is happy to share her knowledge and encourage others.

**Bring along a jar of honey and get some sympathetic help and advice on how to show it. There will be some light-hearted prizes for participants.**

Margaret Rickard  
Sun 28<sup>th</sup>  
June



### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June Clear View Gardens

will be open for the emergency Medical Charity 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 28<sup>th</sup> June would be welcome – please phone Jill Tinsey on 01362 694160 if you can help.**

Stradsett Hall Garden Show.  
Sat/Sun  
4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July  
10am-6pm



Sir Jeremy and Lady Bagge look forward to welcoming you to the Stradsett Hall Garden Show

2009. What's On : Show Gardens, Art Exhibition, Antiques Valuations, Butterfly Barrel Competition, Silent Auction, The W.I. Tea Garden, BBC Radio Norfolk, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Battle of Britain Memorial Flypast, 75+ Trade Stands. Children's Corner, Croquet on the Lawn, a Big Bone Walk, information and exhibitions by the Norfolk Gardens Trust.



### A great day out for the whole family.

Stradsett Hall, Stradsett PE33 9HA. More info. At : [www.stradsetthall.co.uk](http://www.stradsetthall.co.uk)

**We have a stand at this prestigious show and would like some help please. Contact Jill Tinsey on 01362 694160 if you can help.**

## Contacts

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

# Bee Aware



The Friendly Beekeepers of Norfolk

Apiary Tour and



Denver Mill  
Saturday  
11<sup>th</sup> July  
10am-4pm

**Saturday 11th July 09.30 for 10.00 at Gordon Elsegood's "Lowlands" West Drove North, Walton Highway, PE14 7DW and then on to several other beekeepers in the area.**

(come off A47 Lynn to Wisbech road at Walton Highway roundabout, first right, through village, then turn left).



Today we tour around several beekeepers to the south of Lynn guided by our resident Bee Inspector Keith Morgan. We start at Gordon Elsegood's apiary and end at Penny Snell's Apiary at Runcton Holme, stopping at the historic Denver Mill at lunch time.



We will see several different styles of hive and beekeeping so an interesting day is to be had for everyone.

You can bring your own lunch or eat at the Bakery and Tea Rooms at the Mill or drop off at a local pub.

Abbey Farm Open Day  
Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> July



**Sunday 12th July 9am-5pm Abbey Farm Open Day.**

Abbey Farm, Fritcham, is one of the leading organic farms in the country and invites you to see this working farm in action. There are many events in the day's programme. The vegetable fields will be open, as will a circular walk on the farm (both 12-5pm). There will be guided walks on birds, bats, flowers and butterflies. There will be light refreshments in the garden which will be open for your enjoyment. Also Pimms and lemonade will be served in the flowery.



You can find further details at [www.abbeyfarm.co.uk](http://www.abbeyfarm.co.uk)

We have a stand and observation hive at Abbey Farm and would like some help please. Contact Lorraine Gibson on 01553 674051 if you can help.

And .....

Also for your diary : Sat/Sunday 18-19th July Holkham Hall, Holkham Country Fair  
Wed 29th July Sandringham Show and our Annual Honey Show.

Education –  
feedback  
please.



Chris Deaves, Chair of the BBKA Education and Husbandry Standing Committee, has written to all Member Associations, reminding us that the demand for beekeeping education is increasing and that we have to find ways of increasing our ability to help potential new beekeepers in the future.

BBKA is looking to find out what educational resources and techniques we use and how well these work, and Chris particularly asks us what we regard as the most important single thing that the BBKA can do to help us cope with increasing demand for beekeeping education. He points out that the BBKA is already pursuing initiatives to explore the opportunities for beekeeping education via other routes such as schools or colleges, and we are asked to confine our thoughts to education provided via Beekeeping Associations and Groups.

Though your Committee has been asked to respond to this request within the next couple of weeks, we are well aware that members, particularly beginners, will probably have a much better appreciation of what people who wish to learn about beekeeping need. If you have any suggestions (constructive!), please send them to Terry Gibson on 01553 674051.



Beekeeping site

**Apiary Site Available**

Wild flower meadow suitable for 1-2 hives at Merton, near Watton.  
Contact Joan or Vince Matthews on 01953-884125.

Act Now..



**Keith Morgan, our resident Bee Inspector says...**

There are pockets of Varroa infestation in the county – do please monitor for varroa levels as part of your routine inspections.

Now, during the June Gap, is a good time to treat for varroa with Apiguard – there will be little nectar coming in and consequentially you can treat without disturbing honey production.

Supers off first (or put them above a crown board), treat and then supers back on ready for the summer honey crop. At least this year shows signs of promise with many folks in the Kings Lynn area reporting an average honey crop, where last year there had been none.

Beginners Course

By Stuart Grant

The ten members of the course met again on a fine but very windy evening at the Apiary at Blackborough end. The full age range of beekeepers are represented from 11 to 70! and all with roughly the same level of knowledge (or lack of!) and experience. We are so ably 'taught' by Jill and supported by Brian and John, so it means that we are all given at least 4 ways of looking at the same problem! The evening rushes by and we end up with the record update and a welcome drink in the gloom. We are part way through the course now and will finish in mid June.



**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.



East Anglian Bee Forum



The Food Environment and Research Agency

which runs the

National Bee Unit



Dr. Stephen Martin

E.A.R.S. news : [www.wnklba.co.uk/News](http://www.wnklba.co.uk/News)



**With thanks to Jeremy Quinlan who wrote this piece for SBKA**

The Bee Forum brings together members from all associations on the Eastern Region and it was at last year's event that it was agreed to put money directly into research.

Andy Wattam welcomed those present. The Eastern Region now stretched from Leicestershire and Rutland to Essex. Known winter losses were about 16%. Historically, black spots for EFB had been around Norwich and Ipswich. The Eastern Area had the highest concentration of ports, airports, military bases and food packers so was a likely area for the entry of exotic pests such as Small Hive Beetle and Tropilaelaps. Importers of queens are often unaware that all imports, even those from another EU country, must be declared – the regulations are on BeeBase. Experience of Hive Clean showed that it knocked down mites but did not kill them so should be used with a mesh floor. Oxalic acid was also effective, especially when used around Christmas. Apistan and Bayvarol were now only rarely effective so don't buy them. When a beekeeper already had them on his shelf, he was a tempted to use them. Don't! Chuck them!.

Mike Brown, Head of the National Bee Unit, urged us all to make more use of BeeBase, saying it was unique and better than anything else available anywhere. The NBU now reports to Dr Helen Crews, FERA's Head of Programme for Plants, Bees and Seeds. A recent estimate of the economic value of honey bees is that they contribute £153 billion to the world's economy, 9.5% of the world's agriculture (Gallai et al 2008). More money for the Bee Health Programme means an increase of inspectors from 45 to 70 and backup at the NBU can be restored to the levels he knew when he began there. While foulbrood continues to have precedence, more time can be given to training. Part of the NBU's role is to test products for manufacturers, such as a lateral flow device to establish whether Nosema spp is present. Mike briefly mentioned that they will be carrying out a three year survey into the possible sub lethal effects of the neonicotinoid group of pesticides. They are to carry out a two year survey into the general health of apiaries everywhere and develop risk profiles of apiaries in regions. This has never been done before and should prove to be useful in husbandry planning.

Dr Stephen Martin of Sheffield University (who will be running our EARS studentship, introduced Ricky Kather. She had just completed a study into how bee colonies tell which belong and which do not - Nestmate Recognition in Apis mellifera. She explained that her research showed that guard bees can identify incomers' species, sex and colony by monitoring the ratio of three components of the covering of their ecto-skeleton. These are N-alkanes (largely used for waterproofing) alkenes and fatty acids. These ratios are constantly changing as the amount of comb and brood in the colony varies and as the foragers try different crops. Guard bees compare their own ratio with those of incoming bees and admit only those which smell right. Dr Martin was asked why in a honey flow, just about any forager was admitted – he replied they were probably swept along by the crowd and the guards just couldn't cope with the numbers.

Eastern Region Research Student ("EARS"). Dr Martin emphasised how unique our application had been, a completely new approach, and how fortunate we had been to secure this funding since, usually, only 20% of applications were successful. This was high science and the place was won in competition with Glaxo, SmithKline, etc. Our approach had been the right one – here's some money, what can we do with it? – and we had been fortunate that Giles Budge and David Bancalari had been altruistic enough to give so much time to it. Applications were due in by mid May (<http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/94806-PhD-Studentship-Effect-of-Varroa-mite-viral-diseases-on-the-honeybee-Apis-mellifera>) and we expected the student to start no later than October; this was a 4 year studentship; we would be training the next generation of bee scientists. He remarked that aphids prefer plants with virus; does varroa do the same? It was fascinating that every colony had its own profile (smell); bumbles and ants too, so how are varroa mites able to "camouflage" themselves in a new colony? He went on to publicise "Ento 09" a conference of entomologists from 15th to 19th July at Sheffield, and encouraged beekeepers to attend; we can always learn from other disciplines.

In response to an enquiry about using icing sugar to knock down mites, he said that was how he got his supply for experiment but the amount used was large – this might be impractical for routine control.

He drew attention to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate new website section on honey bees (<http://www.vmd.gov.uk/VetSQP/Bee/bee.htm>).



A report on our "Healthy Bees" event

By Colin Sayer



36 beekeepers attended the 'Healthy Bees are Happy Bees' day organised by our local bee inspector Keith Morgan assisted by Mike Willis and Don Cooper. The weather forecast was for showers so we went straight to the apiary site for a demonstration of how to spot potential problems. The group

was divided into three, Don taking the novices to examine the association hives, Mike with an intermediate group examined some of Keith's hives and Keith took a more advanced group to demonstrate how to look for the "Small Hive Beetle".

Small Hive Beetle in a WNKLBA Hive ! →



This beetle has not been found in the UK at the moment but with the import of Fruit and other products from Africa and the USA we must be vigilant. The sooner an invasion is spotted the easier it will be

the try to eradicate the threat and the vigilant beekeeper is the first line of defence. A heavy shower of rain stopped play at the apiary so we returned to Anmer club for the afternoon session on European and American Foul Brood. Several members had brought samples of bees for nosema analysis this was carried out by Jill Tinsey and Don Cooper. Thanks must go to our Bee Inspectors for an enjoyable and informative day, Joan Burton and assistants for providing Tea and snacks in the afternoon and to all who helped make this a successful event.



Jill Tinsey and the microscopy team tested for Nosema from samples brought in by members, finding 2-3 positives along the way.

Jill Tinsey and the microscopy team tested for Nosema from samples brought in by members, finding 2-3 positives along the way.

Topical Tips June 2009

Bee Viruses

By John Everett



Phacelia at John's Apiary

We are now sure that the real damage done by Varroa destructor is not caused by the mite feeding on haemolymph (bee blood) but by the transmission of several different bee viruses when the mites puncture the bee to feed.

Viruses cannot be seen and there is no way that a beekeeper can tell whether the majority of her/his bees are infected or not. Small numbers of bees may have deformed wings or the colony may show symptoms of paralysis. At that stage probably very many bees are infected but not showing symptoms. Once infected the bees cannot be treated so they are doomed. The life of the infected bees is reduced.

Bees in the summer spend the first three weeks of their lives as house bees and the remaining life as foragers (about another three weeks). If a bee's life is shortened it's the foraging that really suffers just the bit that beekeepers really want.

If you see deformed wings/paralysis all you can do is to treat for varroa –even in the summer - so that fewer bees are infected by viruses.

With supers on your hive you can use:-

- Varroa or Open Mesh floors - reduces varroa by 20-30%
- Dust with icing sugar to promote grooming
- Use Drone capture and destruction – varroa prefers to breed in drone brood

Without supers:-

- Apiguard
- Thymol crystals
- Oxalic acid when there is no brood.

Please do not leave treatment until late autumn. John Everett 01508 538 231



## Honey Show



### Save your best frame.. and win a prize.

Courtesy of our retiring chairman, Ernie Dix, there will be a new class in our honey show this year – best novice frame.

Last year entries were down and we discussed ways of encouraging every beekeeper (yes, that includes **you** !) to join in the fun.

The honey show is not for a while, so letting you know now gives you a chance to put a frame on one side from any early-season honey you may get. You can keep it in a super on the hive (but risk bees using it!) or pop it in the freezer. If you take it off a hive it must be kept out of the way of bees and cool.



The only criterion for the Novice Frame entry is that you have not won a prize in our Honey Show before.

On show day you just bring along your frame – we will supply a show case so that the frame can be displayed and look as good as possible at the show.

*Have a go. Wouldn't it be good fun if your name was on the 1st prize !*



### Beekeeping Survey

The National Bee Unit at FERA are conducting an on-line survey of beekeepers and we would like you to help by clicking on the link below or going to [beebase.csl.gov.uk](http://beebase.csl.gov.uk)

<https://secure.csl.gov.uk/beebase/surveys/husbandry/survey-main.cfm?test=0&survey=56>

The survey takes about 2-3 minutes to complete and is anonymous too.



### RAFFLE

You will shortly be receiving 5 books of Raffle Tickets. **Please, please support your Association by selling as many as possible.** All unsold tickets, ticket stubs and monies should be returned to Lorraine Gibson by Wednesday 22nd July at the latest.'



### Membership

For the first time in our history (unless you are very old and know better !) membership has crept well over the 100 mark and currently stands at 120. New members are often looking for equipment and bees so if you can help out, please call Terry Gibson on 01553 674051.

**Thank you for your support and to everyone involved in making our events so popular.**



## The Itinerant Queen

By Barrie Ellis



Last June the weekly inspection of my two hives showed that they were both making preparations for swarming - eggs in queen cups. I removed all occupied cups, gave a couple of frames of foundation and an extra super to each hive – actions that I have known to work but which rarely does. The following day I went on holiday for two weeks and my next inspection was on the day after I returned.

I opened Hive One and found what I had expected, a swarm had emerged and returned to the hive and the marked and clipped queen No. 32 had disappeared. There were many ripe queen cells and I quickly made up a two frame nuc (my insurance in case the queen in the colony is lost in mating); I released a virgin from the “best” cell, destroyed the remaining cells and closed the hive down.

Now for Hive Two – I found many ripe queen cells and then I was surprised to see a few 1 and 2-day eggs! I looked for the queen and there she was - No. 32! The original queen in this hive was No. 28 but there was no mistaking that the occupant of the throne now was the one from next door! She had fallen on the grass when attempting to fly with the swarm, travelled two metres to No. 1 hive stand, climbed up to the hive, found the entrance and was accepted. There were no dead bees as evidence of fighting so the queen had been deserted by the swarm before she moved in with her neighbours. There was no sign of queen No. 28 which must have been lost when trying to fly with the swarm.

I duly made a 2-comb nuc with No.32, the one year old queen; I couldn't bring myself to execute her after her valiant efforts to survive so she became my insurance for a couple of months. I left a good virgin in Hive Two and closed down that hive. For many years I have clipped half a wing and marked the queens with a numbered disc and, as a result, have prevented the loss of swarms on numerous occasions but this time the numbered disc enabled me to find out what my bees got up to when I'm not looking!

*From The Nottinghamshire Beekeeper March 2009, courtesy of eBees*

## CUE EAST SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL



For 3 days in May, several intrepid members manned the Bee Stand at the Forum in Norwich. The festival covered many aspects of sustainable living and 'green' culture and the crowds reflected this. Bees are in the news of course and we spent many happy hours talking about our craft (oh.. and selling £200 worth of raffle tickets too).

The organisers have suggested we could apply for a grant for a project of our choosing that links aspects of university life with education and sustainability and we are currently contemplating working with three schools in Norfolk to achieve this. Thanks to Jill and husband Keith for bringing the stand, displays and observation hive and also to Margaret Rickard, Judy Heal and Joe Trattle for making the long trip from West Norfolk.



RESEARCH INTO THE SPREAD OF VARROA



I am carrying out research into the distribution and prevalence of the Varroa mite in British honeybee colonies. The focal point of this phase of the project is a survey to gauge individual beekeepers' experience of Varroa, and I am contacting beekeeping groups throughout Britain to ask them to bring the survey to the attention of their members.

The project aims to use information from individual beekeepers and Geographical Information System (GIS) software to map the spread of the mite in an attempt to identify areas which have somehow remained Varroa-free. This will require respondents to provide their postcodes, which can be converted into grid references and plotted on an Ordnance Survey digital map. As some might feel reluctant to provide their postcode information, I would like to assure them that all information provided will remain confidential and, to prevent identification of individual locations, results will be aggregated and reported by area (e.g. parish level, county level, or beekeeper society area). While the main topic is Varroa, I have also included questions about general beekeeping; this information may prove useful both in this and future research.

This phase of the project asks beekeepers to complete a questionnaire which will enable us to build a comprehensive picture of the situation. It can be found at : [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5epFW3jcaifsi6oZ7zcdLg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5epFW3jcaifsi6oZ7zcdLg_3d_3d)  
I would really appreciate it you fill this in by 1st July 2009.

I am grateful for your assistance and time, and hope that the findings will assist in finding a solution to the current difficulties relating to varroa. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Kind regards, Donna Clark

Lecturer in Sustainable Science, Heritage and Development, Moray College, Moray St, Elgin, Moray IV30 1JJ 01343 576272

GLEANINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are thinking about getting some T-shirts for the Association. Here is an example of gold-on-black Logo. The guideline price will be about £10. What do you think ?



They would make superb Christmas Presents ! Hint !!

**BeeCraft. We have a discounted Group Subscription. If you would like BeeCraft at the discounted rate, please call David Bancalari on 01603 755105**

We are making good progress with the new Apiary. In principal we want to secure long term tenure with a very helpful owner and are in discussions to see if this is possible. More in due course.

We would rather you buy from members of the Association, but if you do buy nucs/hives from 'unknown' sources or from outside the area, than there is a free service to check they are in good condition. Call Keith Morgan on 01485 520152 eMail : [keith.morgan93@googlemail.com](mailto:keith.morgan93@googlemail.com).

You will be getting some Raffle Tickets shortly. **Please, please, please** sell them all as proceeds are being ploughed back into our association. Can you return ticket stubs + cash to Lorraine Gibson by Wednesday 22nd July at the latest.

Happy Beekeeping !

