

Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



Newsletter October 2015

BRIGHTON AND LEWES DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
www.brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk

Next meeting - Oct 21st, 1st indoor meeting of the season

Celia Rudland, all about candles. Celia has spoken at our meetings on a number of occasions and is always enjoyed. Light will be shed on candle making. Usual time St. Thomas' church hall.

Last summer meeting -Grassroots,September 13th

A select band met on a lovely sunny day for a change. Two colonies had Apiguard on and were not disturbed although we could look through the clear crownboard. On the other three, icing sugar dusting was demonstrated. They were being treated with icing sugar only because they either had a new queen, or needed some feeding or were small. The merits of dusting versus Apiguard were discussed. One colony had only dropped about 14 mites with the first tray of Apiguard and I wondered whether it was worth putting a second tray on or not but decided to after it dropped 100 when dusted. The second tray has already dropped 65 mites in 4 days. Puzzling! The moral of varroa monitoring must

be that if you see hardly any mites on the insert at this time of year, test or dust again. And don't assume the treatment has been effective – Grassroots Sept_2698.jpg double check!

In one colony we observed dead bees on the floor and small numbers of sacbrood, Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus and Deformed Wing Virus. They had had a drone laying queen until requeened three weeks before so we are hoping the new queen may help.

We saw at least 3 or 4 shades of pollen going in too. Afterwards we enjoyed the the customary excellent cakes and tea.



Bob Curtis has a new toy...

Bob has a camera which takes 30 shots as a montage in 1 second. The drawback is it takes about two hours to process the results. Bob thinks we won't be seeing too many shots. Never-the-less it's interesting.



One second in the life of a hive
© Bob Curtis 2015

Amanda advises

Some of what I said last months still applies. The bad weather last month delayed some of my plans to get them all fed and dusted by the end of September, I might have to continue into the beginning of October. This month the mouse guards go on, or in my case the reduced height entrance blocks of 5.5 to 6 mm, which will keep out hornets and mice and allows greater freedom of movement to the bees than with metal mouse guards. Alternatively, entrance blocks with pins at 9mm intervals will keep out mice. I shall also be checking to see how effective my Apiguard was, as I got some mixed mite drops. As the brood area shrinks dusting becomes increasingly effective. I shall be checking my stored supers for wax moth and catching up on my seemingly endless pile of box and frame cleaning.

Check the entrances regularly that they are not blocked by dead bees, especially if you see any dead on the ground outside. Colonies can quickly die if trapped inside.

I hope we can persuade more of you to enter some

honey or wax into the National Honey Show at Weybridge at the end of the month. Everyone should submit some at some point, it is excellent experience and the preparation stands you in good stead for your own honey for sale, which after all should be show quality all the time.

There are lots of instruction sheets on the National Honey Show website.

October is the month to plant spring bulbs for our bees to enjoy, crocuses are very useful, particularly the specie crocuses, which flower earlier, have more sturdy flowers and last longer, and bees seem to get more benefit from in terms of nectar and pollen.



Apiary site offer

Mr Paul Bedi is offering an area in a 12 acre woodland to any of our members who might be interested in having an out apiary in the Halland area. It appears that the site has good access by road. There is a small stream on site. If you are interested contact Paul on 07850214489 or email: paul.bedi@hotmail.co.uk

Barbie at Heather's - Sun 13th September

The weather was not too kind but members braved the dull conditions and went to Stonecroft to enjoy the get together. Thank you Heather for making such a great effort for the division (not forgetting Ron for officiating at the hot end of the event). I have to confess that this is the first BBQ I have been able to attend as it has always clashed with my granddaughters birthday party, I shall be agitating for a similar arrangement in the future.



What are they looking at with all that lovely food and drink on the table?

Divisional Diary 2015/16

Indoor meetings 7.15 for 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday, (October to March) at St. Thomas's church hall, Lewes unless otherwise stated. Members are invited to arrive early and assist in putting out chairs. Admittance £1 which will include tea/coffee, cake/biscuits Non-members are welcome.

Programme

Indoor meetings

October 21st – Candle making– Celia Rudland

November 18th – Preparing honey for show– Mollie Bonard

December 16th – Dave Cushman and his website - Roger Patterson

January 20th – AGM – Using Nucs – David Rudland

February 17th – 8mm of Nothing– Bob Smith

March 16th – Blossom to Honey Jar– John Hendrie

Dates for your diary

October 29-31 National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge

November 28 SBKA Annual convention

The Brighton and Lewes Division of the SBKA cannot accept any responsibility for loss, injury or damage sustained by persons in consequence of their participation in activities arranged.

Officers of the Division

President

Lionel Reuben

Chairman

Bob Curtis

Curtis Photography, Woodside, Falmer Rd, Brighton BN2

6LA T: 01273 303311 E: poshpix@me.com

Vice-Chairman/Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Pat Clowser, 5 Wivelsfield Road, Saltdean, BN2 8FP

T: 01273 700404 E: Patricia_clowser@hotmail.com

Secretary

Hilary Osman, Holly Tree Cottage, Norlington Lane,

Ringmer, BN8 5SH T: 01273 813045

E: secretary@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk

Meetings Secretary

Vacant

Swarm coordination

Sue Taylor T: 07813 557430 E: sue.geoff.t@hotmail.co.uk

Webmaster

Gerald Legg, E: gerald@chelifer.com

Newsletter editor

Lionel Reuben, Whincroft, Station Rd, Nth Chailey, BN8

4HG T: 01825 723453; E: lionel.r@talktalk.net

Librarian

Vicky Dunster (non-committee)

Out-Apiary Managers

Pat Clowser, "Stanmer"

Amanda Millar, "Burgess Hill"

Heather McNiven "Knowlands Farm"

County Representatives

Pat Clowser, Bob Curtis

Education coordinator

Heather McNiven

National Honey Show Representative

Vacant

Committee Members

Sue Taylor, Gerald Legg, Heather McNiven, Mary King

Contributions to our newsletter

Contributions to the newsletter (max 900 words) can be sent preferably by email to the editor see Officer panel above for details Photos etc. for the website should be emailed to our webmaster, see panel above.

Regional Bee Inspector:

Julian Parker, T: 07775 119469

E: julian.parker@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Seasonal Bee Inspector East of A275: David Rudland

T: 01883 622788 Mob: 07775 119448

E: david.rudland@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Other areas: Diane Steele, T: 01903 745667

Mob: 07775 119452 E: diane.steele@apha.gsi.gov.uk