VISITING THE OSR

Photo: Somerton BKA

Newsletter of the Warwickshire Beekeepers’ Association
Registered Charity No. 500276
NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN
Celia F Davis

At the recent County AGM officers were elected to serve you, the members: The Chairman will serve for two years and the Secretary and Treasurer are both re-electable each year. Our President, Stan Dolphin has one year remaining of his five-year term. We hope that by publishing our photographs you will all at least be able to put faces to the names. We have committed ourselves to revising and updating the Rules completely and, to that end, we have set up a sub-committee which by the time you read this, will have started work. That will report back to the Trustees by early July, so we are not going to be idle. We look forward to meeting many of you and hope for everyone’s co-operation during our period of office.

COUNTY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Stan Dolphin
CHAIRMAN: Celia Davis
TREASURER: Jan Willetts
SECRETARY: Mike Blanco
UK is clover. There are two main forms: red and white, but many hybrids and some other species as well. White clover (*Trifolium repens*) used to be regarded as one of the major sources of honey and was planted extensively with grass to produce forage crops for cattle. It also grows wild and in lawns and is very common. It yields nectar best on alkaline soils so the downs in the south east are particularly favoured. Red clover (*T. pratense*) is similar, but the individual florets, of which the flower head is composed, are longer. This means that honey bees cannot reach into them and they are utilised by the long-tongued bumble bees.

The pea family, which used to be called the Leguminosae, is now called the Fabaceae, which is easier to spell but not so helpful, as we tend to call the plants in this family legumes. It is one of the most important families of plants for bees, beekeepers and farmers and gardeners. Leguminous plants used to be part of traditional rotations as they have nodules on their roots which contain bacteria. These clever little organisms are able to take nitrogen, which is in an inert state in the atmosphere, and turn it directly into ammonia, which can be converted into nitrates giving the plant an advantage over its neighbours. The nitrates are released into the soil when the plant dies and can then be used by other plants. (There are a few other, non-leguminous plants that can fix nitrogen, but these are of very little importance compared to the legumes.) This ability used to be used extensively in agriculture to improve soil fertility but since the use of nitrogenous fertilisers became common, it has become of less significance.

The flowers of these plants are quite characteristic with their petals modified into a ‘keel’ surrounding the reproductive parts, two ‘wings’ and a standard petal which is held above the keel. The stamens are 10 in number and all or most of them are usually fused together along much of their length. The nectaries are at the bottom of this tube, so a certain amount of intelligence is required to work out the structure and obtain the nectar and the pollen. Bees are the obvious candidates. The fruit is frequently a pod so very recognisable.

**Clover**

One of the major legumes grown in the

**Beans**

There are many types of bean, but we are most familiar with runner beans and broad beans. Field beans are more or less identical to broad beans and can be a very useful crop, giving a good medium honey, and usually following on after oilseed rape. In the garden setting they are pollinated by both honey bees and bumblebees but the short-tongued varieties of the latter often find it easier to chew little holes at the base of the flower to steal the nectar. Honey bees, though unable to chew holes themselves quickly learn to look at the
base as it is much easier than fighting your way in through the front door. Unfortunately for the plant, no pollination takes place because the bees do not come into contact with the reproductive parts. Runner beans can also be pollinated by bees and in our garden we often see brimstone butterflies on them. I have no idea why they particularly, seem to find them attractive. Broad beans also have extra-floral nectaries on the leaf-like stipules on their stems. These appear as black dots but the nectar can often be seen glistening on them. They are much loved by ants but honey bees too, will visit them.

Lucerne
This is not a plant producing honey crops in the UK but is very important in other countries. It is grown for forage for cattle and several cuts are often taken in a season. It can be a very important crop particularly for American beekeepers and is occasionally of use here. Honey bees do not pollinate it too well because it has a tripping mechanism which releases the reproductive structures from the keel and is quite violent. The parts strike the bee on the head and our honey bees take exception to that, so it is more often pollinated by solitary bees, which do not seem so fussy. Honey bees learn to steal the nectar by entering the flower from the side between the petals.

Many other plants
There are a huge number of species in the Family as a whole and I have only looked at some of the more important ones. However, many others yield nectar and even more produce very nutritious pollen. In fact it is one of the most important families for pollen provision. Gorse and broom are good early providers although it is doubtful if either produces nectar, no-one seems sure. Sainfoin is another crop which is not grown much now. It has a beautiful pink flower and is very much used by honey bees where it is found. It is a plant of chalk soils and I have seen it growing along the top of the cliffs of Dover. It has a very long root, so seldom suffers from water shortage and the honey is deep yellow in colour and, because the pollen is very oily, when bees are working sainfoin everything, including the wax, becomes stained yellow.
Equipment, Feeding, Swarming, Queen Rearing

Tom tells me he still hasn’t cleaned his equipment or made new brood and super frames. He has put a varroa board in place and the count suggests that his bees are in trouble. Better to treat now without supers on because it will soon be too late I suggested.

The recent warm spell has allowed us to make our first tentative inspections. All my marked queens are in place. I admit to losing a couple of colonies, including one in a poly nuc. I intend next winter, to insulate well with Recticel or similar material. I am sure that this will create a more welcoming winter home for them and one closely resembling one they would find in the wild...even though there will still be open mesh floors. My theory is that my lost colonies were either too small to stay warm through the winter or that there were no or insufficient winter bees to take the colony through till spring. Perhaps the queens did not mate well. A contributory factor could also be the amount of crystallized comb found in the brood boxes. This could have been hard for the colony to utilise and perhaps took up valuable brood space. I have shared this information with others and found that many have lost colonies this winter in similar circumstances.

Queenless? Without available queens the easiest thing to do, only if they are disease free, is to empty the hive because the bees will be old bees and will soon die. They might be accepted into other hives and help boost their stock.

Beware that April is a variable month and check the food situation. The bees seem to be bringing in much pollen on warm days which is a very good sign indeed, but nectar could be in short supply and the weather can change rapidly and for prolonged periods. Brood will be increasing rapidly and there will be many mouths to feed. Better to have some syrup available, but not too much as this can end up in the super. At least one super should be on. If the OSR provides its treasures at the right time for bees to harvest, then supers can rapidly fill and plenty of extra space for stores can help deter swarming. A dearth of food or an abundance, either could happen.

Most of us are not prepared for swarming. Tom is living in Tom’s world which doesn’t recognise swarming until it has happened and then the rest of the summer is spent cutting out queen cells in the hope that this will solve the problem. Inevitably it doesn’t. He should be checking his colonies every 5-7 days from now on. No doubt he will depend on caught swarms to replace those he loses. Drones and drone brood are in my colonies which mean that they will be in others too. So swarming is not far away. Colonies can be ‘equalised’ to reduce populous hives and boost smaller ones. This might reduce the risk of swarming, or at least delay it.

Which swarm prevention method to use? Artificial, splitting, Demaree? Better to select one method and fully understand it. Sometimes it seems as if there is too much choice. At the very least bait boxes can be put out to collect swarms. I am putting two in place this week.

It is time for making queen rearing plans. I have spotted all my queens, new last year apart from a green breeding queen. I hope to try my hand...
again at queen rearing with the Nicot cupkit system followed by a bit of grafting. I will start my queen cells in Kieler and Apidea mini-nucs I haven’t yet decided whether to raise my queens in a queenright colony using the Ben Harden method, which worked last year, or a Demaree which didn’t. This was partly to do with a broken shoulder which made the manipulation of many boxes impossible, although I did enlist the help of some fellow Shipston members who kindly helped me out. An advantage of the Demaree method is that it can be used without finding the queen. I am also hoping to change most of my comb with a Bailey comb change. Old comb can also be marked with pins if not ready for removal to make it easier for exchange at a later date. For those who don’t know, the Dave Cushman Beekeeping Website is a very useful source of information for all the above mentioned methods and just about everything else.

So good luck with all your plans and may all your bees survive...at least until next time.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The first exclusive newspaper reports about the Wright brothers’ first flights were published by the magazine *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. The publisher, AI Root, drove 175 miles to witness the brothers’ early flights. The three men became friends and the Wright brothers allowed Root to write about what he had seen in his journal. For the best part of two years, the Wrights’ achievements were reported nowhere else. *Gleanings in Bee Culture* is still published.

From: ‘Quite Interesting’ in the Daily Telegraph Weekend Section 17/11/12. Ipswich & East Suffolk BKA, via eBEES

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**Recipe of the month**

*Douglas Nethercleft*

**Honey Pudding**

(For 4)

**Ingredients**

- 1 oz Semolina
- ¼ pt Milk - plus
- 6 oz White Breadcrumbs - fresh
- 4 oz Honey – runny
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- 1 tsp Ginger – ground
- ¼ oz Crystallised ginger – cut fine
- 1 oz Butter – melted
- 2 Eggs - separated

**Method**

- Gently cook the semolina in the ¼ pint of milk for ten minutes, stirring the while.
- Add enough cold milk to enable the semolina to ‘pour’ over the breadcrumbs.
- Separate the eggs and put the whites to one side.
- Add the egg yolks and remaining ingredients to the breadcrumb mix and blend well.
- Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture.
- Pour into a bowl, cover with cling film or a tied cloth and steam for about 2 hours.

Serve with custard or cream and drizzle with extra honey. Delicious, too, with rhubarb or other stewed fruit.

**Acknowledgement:** *The Little Honey Book* – Mavis Budd
Comparison of comb longevity in a wild nest and a man-made hive

A suitable honey bee nest in the wild is rarely inhabited for more than about six consecutive years [28], after which the comb is destroyed by wax moths, mice and other scavengers [29]. The empty nest site then becomes available for another colony to use. Since the volume of a wild nest cavity is typically much smaller than that of a modern moveable frame hive and 90% the comb is manufactured within 45 days of colonisation, it would not be unreasonable to assume that 5 - 6 year old brood comb becomes incompatible with good colony health, an idea that is supported by considerable scientific evidence.

By about that time, worker bees emerging from the same cells in the centre of an immoveable brood area will have lost 8% of the emergence weight of the first bees to have emerged from those same cells [30], if not more [31]. As well as accumulating the remains of successive pupal cases, old brood comb becomes a reservoir for various bee pathogens - in particular spores of American Foul Brood [32], chalk brood [33] and nosema [34]. Varroa mites prefer to enter old cells rather than new-drawn ones [35]. Lastly, through the cumulative absorption of brood pheromone, empty cells in old brood comb emit a confusing message to the queen bee that has an inhibitory effect on egg laying [36]. Old comb can harbour concentrated levels of environmental toxins [37] including heavy metals [38] and pesticides [39]. Not only are these potentially harmful to the colony, they will also distort nestmate recognition cues [40, 41]. The periodic collapse of wild colonies and the thorough cleaning out of their nest sites can be regarded as part of a natural cycle.

The comb situation is rather different in a man-made hive. Firstly, the age of the brood comb is completely in the control of the beekeeper and historically, many bee colonies have been kept on the same brood frames for years on end. However, there is compelling evidence that regular comb change in the brood box is beneficial to the bees [42]. Secondly, if commercial foundation is used in preference to small home-made wax starter strips, the midribs of drawn comb within the hive are made from recycled wax with an indeterminate cumulative load of environmental contaminants from numerous unknown sources. Thirdly, embossed foundation, which is presumably used in the belief that it optimizes cell placement on each side of the midrib, somewhat dictates the size of the cells drawn by the bees, even though the scientific basis for the dimensions used has a questionable history [43]. Fourthly, frame spacing is controlled by the beekeeper, albeit manufactured frame size / spacing is based upon sound scientific observation. Fifthly, a variety of frame manipulations might be performed at certain times of the season in an attempt to optimise colony build-up, help out a completely different colony, or simply to get more comb drawn. All of these can seriously disrupt the brood pattern that the bees had made for themselves. Lastly, the same super frames might be used for decades but, in most cases, they will never have contained any brood which is totally contrary to the honey-storage cells used.
by a wild colony.

Two final considerations impact upon my present thinking of how comb in the hive is used differently to comb in the wild nest. Firstly, there is good research evidence that it makes no difference to the annual honey crop whether empty supers are added to the top of the brood box or to the top of the pre-existing super stack [44]. Secondly, it is suggested that feeding a colony as much syrup as it will take down as part of overwintering preparations can lead to total congestion of the brood area with capped “honey” and that this can inhibit early colony build up as the days get longer after the winter solstice.

To be continued...

References;
WHAT THE BEE-KEEPER SAID...

My stocks this year are sound and strong,
In fact I think I shan't be wrong
In hoping I may take 'ere long
Two hundred pounds of honey.
What's that? A swarm! Oh, how insane!
Which hive? What! That one swarmed again?
It's quite enough to turn one's brain
And yet—it's very funny—
I could have sworn I'd killed their queen.
Either—how dense I must have been,
Or else—whatever can they mean?
Hello! Here comes the rain!
Shall I be scored off by a bee?
I'll put them back and make them see
They've got to do what pleases me.
(Next day) Great Scot! they're out again!

WHAT THE QUEEN BEE SAID...

Two new queens out?
Why, then, I fear
There won't be room for me in here:
Go out, and seek a lodging near,
Then all fill up with honey.
Last night our master paid a call.
And turned us over, great and small,
Then killed the largest drone of all
With lots of ceremony.
I'm sure he has some deep-laid plot
So swarm while yet the weather's hot,
For who can tell, if we do not,
We shall not all be slain?
Well, here's a door, so in we go
What? Our old hive! Not if I know!
Shall this mere man coerce us so?
Out, bees, and swarm again!

BEE VISION

In the 1950s, Karl von Frisch did a series of experiments to test bee’s perception of colour;
For the first experiment, a blue card, with sugar syrup on it, was placed near a hive of bees. As expected, the bees visited the card to get the sugar syrup. Then a red card was added, and this time there was no sugar syrup on the blue card. The bees still chose to visit the blue card, showing they could see the two cards as different colours
(but maybe not in the same way as a human would).

For the second experiment, the blue card with syrup was repeated, as before, and then the bees were shown a blue card (no syrup) and a variety of grey and black cards. As expected, the bees visited the blue card.

The test was repeated with a red card, with sugar syrup, which the bees visited. But when they were shown the red card (no syrup) and a variety of grey and black cards, they didn’t all go to the red card. Conclusion? - they couldn’t distinguish between the colours, showing that bees can’t see red. Bees see red as black (the reflecting UV) and as orange reflects UV too, it also looks dark.

Karl von Frisch also did a series of tests, looking at the function of scent and colour ;
A blue card, with sugar syrup and scent on it, was put by the hive and the bees visited it. When the blue card had only syrup on it, and a grey card was used with the scent, the bees went for the grey card instead. This shows the importance of scent when bees forage.

One of the ways beekeepers can use some of this knowledge is by making the hives in their apiary different colours and patterns (not grey though, as the bees can’t see it). There will be less chance of drift between the hives, as the bees will find it easier to distinguish their own hive from the rest. Useful when space is limited and all the hives have to be orientated with their entrances facing the same way.

Herefordshire BKA via ebees

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Branch News

Coventry & District Branch
www.covbeebbranch.co.uk
As I write this article (April 12th) it is definitely feeling like we are going to have another cold, damp spring. I certainly haven’t considered carrying out any inspections on my hives yet beyond a quick peek under the crown board to see how many seams of bees are there! I’m already assuming that, by the time you read this, there will be have been a sudden warm spell and bees will have been swarming all over the place! A National Swarm Day – not for the first time in recent years! I think the best advice is – as soon as there is the first opportunity of inspecting them without this cold air around, make every effort to get out there and do so. Of course you will know what your chosen swarm control method is, and you will have the required kit ready to put into action if you do see swarm cells – won’t you? I hope most of us have managed to retain our bees by the time you are reading this.

Our branch will be commencing its normal monthly apiary meetings on Sunday 15th May (3 to 5 pm). It would be nice to see any members there who would like to chat about their beekeeping and find out what everyone else is up to.

Dave Bonner has also been trying to draw up a rota of branch beekeepers who will share the job of inspecting the branch hives on all Sundays over the season. Of course it’s the usual scenario that, if a number of beekeepers offered, then everyone would probably only have to do one or two dates over the season. However, unfortunately we know what the ‘usual scenario’ actually entails, and the
expectation is that a few of us will probably do most of it! Nevertheless, if anyone feels they would like to offer to share in this and can offer one or two dates, please contact Dave on cbka.membership@hotmail.co.uk. He will be very pleased to hear from you. I’m sure that anyone who offers to do this will enjoy the experience and learn a lot from handling other bees with other beekeepers.

Please see our branch diary at www.covbeebranch.co.uk.

Bill Crofts

Our last branch meeting of the winter took place on 18th April (Bill was sunning himself in Devon!) when we were visited by Jane Heselgrave who is a Allergy Nurse Specialist based at the Heart of England NHS Trust in Birmingham. She spoke to us about Bee Venom Allergy and began with a basic explanation of how an allergic reaction occurs on a cellular level with helpful diagrams for the less scientific of us in the audience. She then gave a guide to the different reactions that can occur to a sting from the local reaction; (a bit of redness, swelling and itching at the site of the sting which most of us experience), a large local reaction; (extensive swelling of the entire limb with intense itching and pain), a systemic reaction; (additional symptoms occurring away from the sting site including red rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue and throat) and full anaphylaxis; (breathing difficulties, a fall in blood pressure, increased pulse, a ‘sense of doom’, nausea, vomiting, fainting and, in the worst case scenario, collapse and death if you haven’t dialled 999!!) She stressed that those who suffer a systemic reaction or worse, require treatment at an Allergy Clinic and should seek referral from their GP.

Unsurprisingly, sufferers of bee venom allergy are almost exclusively beekeepers (or their spouses or family) and almost all of them have no intention of giving up their hobby despite this being the first bit of advice they are given when they attend the clinic. Jane went through the investigations done at the clinic and also gave us detailed information about what the immunotherapy treatment involves. It’s quite a commitment with an initial 12 weekly injections of gradually increasing doses of bee venom followed by a year of maintenance injections every 4 weeks, a second year of injections every 6 weeks and a final year of injections every 8 weeks. The good news is that 80% of people who finish the treatment will be protected from future reactions.

Jane finished her talk by mentioning a few worrying statistics from a combined Allergy Clinic / BBKA survey which was done several years ago where it was found that only 44% of beekeepers who had suffered a systemic reaction to a bee sting sought any medical help and of the 95 beekeepers who had been issued with an adrenaline auto-injector (Epipen) because of bee venom allergy, only 75 actually bothered to take it with them when visiting their hives! She then gave us some training auto injectors to ‘play’ with – minus the needles and adrenaline thankfully!

It was a fascinating and enlightening talk and definitely something to be aware of.

Julia Barclay

Nuneaton & Atherstone Branch

Following on from last month’s talk by Celia Davis on the topic of “Keeping Them Healthy”, this month’s meeting
was a nosema clinic where Linda Tuffin and Jason Arnold carried out a microscopic investigation of samples of members’ bees. Members were able to have a good look and see exactly what it was we were looking for! Fortunately, the incidence of nosema was very low and certainly not at the levels found in one colony the previous year.

Prior to starting the nosema investigations, Linda demonstrated the procedure for carrying out a Bailey comb change and a shook swarm procedure, a very useful reminder for the forthcoming season! Linda emphasised the necessity for needing a strong colony before carrying out a shook swarm. Next month will be the first meeting to be held at the club apiary when a Bailey comb change will be demonstrated with one of the hives, which should be a helpful reminder for members.

For the remainder of the summer season, our meetings are planned to begin on Thursday 5th May at the club apiary in the Plantasia section of Dobbies Garden Centre, Mancetter and alternate weeks thereafter until September. Meetings begin at 5.30 pm

John Twidle

Rugby Branch

Our last meeting proved to be an exceptionally amusing and informative evening. Graham Royle a beekeeper for over 30 years, with numerous educational beekeeping interests and an electronic engineering background, has over the years invented, devised, accumulated etc. a number of gadgets to aid beekeeping. He shared his ideas, experience of problem solving along with his aspirations with us, under the title of ‘If Heath Robinson were a Beekeeper’. A particular favourite within the audience was a extended vacuum swarm collector; perfect for those awkwardly positioned swams in twisted and high places. Excellent evening.

A number of the members attended the convention at Harper Adams and attended various lectures and modules. As usual a variety of sessions relating to beekeeping and husbandry were on offer at the convention along with other subjects for the non beekeeper. Plenty of choice for all.

The branch provided a fascinating display again at the annual charity Daffodil Sunday event at Newnham Paddocks; interest is always heightened when live bees can be seen and the queen can be identified by the public.

New Rugby members, please support us and if possible attend the events that take place over the year organised by the branch, you are always very welcome whatever your level of knowledge. Experienced beekeepers are always at hand to support you and extend your knowledge.

Gail Plester

Shipston Branch

Our 1st Tuesday meeting in April was centred around spring preparations in our apiaries. Peter Hepworth led the discussion and shared his many years experience in nurturing colonies through the critical early spring period. He recommended stimulating the bees in small colonies with an early syrup feed whereas the larger colonies would soon be needing more space in advance of requirements. Peter advocated giving them 2 supers with as much drawn comb as possible.

Chris Paxford, SBKA Chairman, gave a report of the County AGM and invited those present to consider the possible changes to the County structure aired at the AGM. He undertook to write to the County Exec to make them aware of the
general feeling within SBKA. In summary, the meeting felt the County structure needs substantial reform to bring it into line with the modest role WBKA has in SBKA members beekeeping.

This year our 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course was held over two days. The first day, a snowy Saturday, was a theory day held in Stretton on Fosse village hall. Five presenters introduced thirty one delegates to the many aspects and delights of beekeeping. Bee conversation flowed in coffee breaks and an excellent buffet lunch. Sunday dawned cold and frosty but by 10.30 the sun had warmed the air and bees were flying from the hives in our new branch apiary at the bottom of the garden of The Gate Inn. (It is a long garden!) The next couple of hours were spent enjoying the more practical aspects of beekeeping, lighting a smoker, building a box and frames and, most importantly, handling bees. Again a great buffet lunch and lots of bee chat followed in the bar. We had positive feedback and 15 people joined the branch allowing them access to further weekly apiary sessions. We hope they will ‘learn the trade’ at the apiary this year before going onto having their own bees (and a mentor) next year. Other delegates came from around the area and one even came from Norfolk! The new apiary is still a work in progress and work parties will be busy in the coming months.

David and Margery Blower

Solihull Branch

I wasn't able to make our Apiary Spring Clean Up myself but I hear that more than twenty members turned up armed with mowers, strimmers and various other tools and everyone pitched in to tidy the site up ready for the new season. They were also able to clear a site near the nucleus bench and sow it with some donated wildflower seed which will hopefully please one or two passing pollinators, not to mention our own resident bees. I'm pleased to say our bees passed the winter safely and all our colonies have survived. A meeting would not be complete without our members enjoying one or two treats provided by Mandy and Denise, ably assisted by Brian and Richard of course and I hear it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our upcoming nosema clinic is very timely at the end of the April and offers a great opportunity for members to check the health of their colonies. My sample is already in my freezer. Judging by the way my bees are building up I have every hope they are clear - but you never know so I have some treatment ready to hand if they need it.

That takes us swiftly to the start of the new season. The first of our weekly summer meetings on Wednesday evenings is 4th May. So, suits on and light the smokers; here we go again!

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 May  Rugby Spring Fair
Whitehall Recreation Ground, Hillmorton Road
Rugby

3 May  7.30pm 1st Tuesday Meeting
The Gate Inn, Upper Brailes
Shipston

4 May  7.00pm Branch Apiary Meeting Ravenshaw Apiary
Solihull

5 May  5.30pm Branch Apiary Meeting
Dobbies Garden World (entrance via Plantasia)
Nuneaton Road, Mancetter CV9 1RF
Nuneaton & Atherstone

7 May  10.00am Apiary Meeting Winterbourne House & Gardens
All Members with hives at Winterbourne to attend Spring Disease Check
Birmingham

7 May  2.00pm Apiary Meeting Highbury Park
All Members with hives at Highbury to attend Spring Disease Check
Birmingham

8 May  10.00am Nosema Clinic
Bring a sample of 30 frozen bees. Noel Parker
Winterbourne Apiary.
Birmingham

10 May  5.00pm Apiary Meeting & every following Tuesday in May
Sutton Park Apiary
Sutton Coldfield

14 May  2.00pm Apiary Meeting & every following Saturday in May
Highbury Park, Kings Heath, Birmingham
Birmingham

15 May  3.00pm Apiary Meeting (& other Sundays in May - check with cbka.membership@hotmail.co.uk )
Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, CV8 3LG
Coventry

18 May  12 noon Wednesday Lunch
The Swan, Fairfield, Bromsgrove, B61 9NG
www.swanpubbromsgrove.co.uk/
Bdbka.socsec@aol.com / 0121 444 4005
Birmingham

19 May  Branch Meeting Honey, Christine Clifton
Erdington Methodist Centre
Sutton Coldfield

19 May  5.30pm Branch Apiary Meeting
Dobbies Garden World (entrance via Plantasia)
Nuneaton Road, Mancetter CV9 1RF
Nuneaton & Atherstone

21 May  One Day Taster Course “So you think you would like to keep bees?” Martineau Gardens.
www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/education/courses-2/ Booking and details 0121 440 7430
Birmingham
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Friday Social</strong></td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Loco Lounge, High Street, Kings Heath</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://thelounges.co.uk/lounges/loco-lounge/">http://thelounges.co.uk/lounges/loco-lounge/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bdbka.socsec@aol.com">Bdbka.socsec@aol.com</a> / 0121 444 4005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Branch Apiary Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Nuneaton &amp; Athersone</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dobbies Garden World (entrance via Plantasia)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nuneaton Road, Mancetter CV9 1RF</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Apiary Meeting &amp; every following Saturday in June</strong></td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Highbury Park, Kings Heath, Birmingham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Apiary Meeting &amp; every following Tuesday in June</strong></td>
<td>Sutton Coldfield</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sutton Park Apiary</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td><strong>1st Tuesday Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Shipston</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Gate Inn, Upper Brailes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td><strong>Wednesday Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Peacock Inn, Icknield Street, Kings Norton, B38 OEH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://thelounges.co.uk/lounges/loco-lounge/">The Peacock Website</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bdbka.socsec@aol.com">Bdbka.socsec@aol.com</a> / 0121 444 4005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Branch Apiary Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Nuneaton &amp; Athersone</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dobbies Garden World (entrance via Plantasia)</td>
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<td>Nuneaton Road, Mancetter CV9 1RF</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Branch Meeting</strong> Pollination - Richard Barron</td>
<td>Sutton Coldfield</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Erdington Methodist Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dunchurch Festival</strong></td>
<td>Rugby</td>
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<td>Village Hall, Dunchurch</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td><strong>Apiary Meeting</strong> (&amp; other Sundays in June- check with <a href="mailto:cbka.membership@hotmail.co.uk">cbka.membership@hotmail.co.uk</a>)</td>
<td>Coventry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, CV8 3LG</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Friday Social</strong> TBC</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 June</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Kings Norton Park Open Day</strong></td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td><strong>Branch Apiary Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Nuneaton &amp; Athersone</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dobbies Garden World (entrance via Plantasia)</td>
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<td>Nuneaton Road, Mancetter CV9 1RF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As members of the WBKA you are welcome to attend ANY of the meetings listed on the Diary pages.