



BDBKA News



www.barnetbeekeepers.org.uk

Hello Barnet Beekeepers,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the first edition of the new BDBKA newsletter.

We are proud to have a brand new logo, designed for us by a member, Adam Armstrong, who has also helped with the layout of this newsletter. We aim to make it as informative and relevant as possible, so any ideas for its development and concise nuggets of information for inclusion are welcome. Copy should be sent to [myself](#) and [Steve Leveridge](#) who has agreed to act as editor, Contributions to be received by the 20th of each month. Thanks to Adam and Steve for getting it up and running.

BDBKA and the Middlesex Federation are keen to promote good bee husbandry. In Barnet we are planning a series of 'Improver' lectures and apiary demonstrations for more experienced beekeepers. The Federation is also setting-up workshops open to all members - more on these later. More on these later. If anyone wishes to sit BBKA examinations, we would be pleased to offer support. Details of the Modules (theory) and Husbandry (practical) may be found on the [BBKA website](#). We encourage as many of you

Swarming

Time to get ready

"Only a fool forgets the 1st of April!" It seems in Barnet, we only need a few warm spring days before our bees are ready to swarm. For 2016, the time to prepare for finding that first queen cell is now.

Get your kit ready

To manage swarming you've got to have all your kit prepared - generally a clean hive (stand, floor, excluder, brood box of frames of foundation, crown board and roof). Get it clean and have it ready.

as possible to sit the [Basic Assessment](#). Passing this shows some knowledge and proficiency and is becoming a requirement of some Allotment Associations for beekeepers on their sites.

As spring approaches our bees are building up for the season. The association is here to help - don't hesitate so get in touch if you want advice. I wish you all a successful and enjoyable year in your apiaries.

Pat Morgan

[BBKA Basic Assessment, Click for info.](#)

[BBKA Examinations & Assessments, Click here for info.](#)

Choose your method

AS, Demaree or taking out a nuc are all proven methods of swarm control, but they have to be performed correctly. They all have their pros and cons so weigh them up and decide on the best method for you.

We're here to help

Join us at Whalebones on Saturday 12th March (10 for 10.30am) for the Swarm Lecture - we'll cover the basics (including what to do if you just can't find your queen) with experience and advice to help keep your bees in your hive.

Middlesex Federation Day

Saturday 20th February 2016

It was our turn to host Federation Day this year and it proved to be a successful, well-attended event at Arkley Village Hall. Prof. Linda Field from Rothamsted spoke on Insecticides and the Risk to Bees. Pam Hunter, Master Beekeeper told us about Nutrition and its effects on colony health and Dr. Sara Robb described producing cosmetics from honey and beeswax.

Equipment and bee suits were on sale from Bee Basic and Roy Copley ran a wax exchange. The day went very smoothly and even cars stuck in mud were most efficiently extracted! Many thanks to Barnet's excellent organising team.

Pat Morgan

Education Workshops

Middlesex Federation is scheduling a series of workshops, hosted by member Associations, with funding provided to cover costs. These will be a mix of talks and apiary demonstrations by both guest speakers and more experienced members of the Federation. Barnet hosted the first of these last month on Swarm Control. John House, Jo Telfer and Tony Smith each spoke and the evening was informative and enjoyable with good attendance and received good feedback. The next session will be the Disease Day (more details in this edition) and we look forward to other topics being covered later in the year. These workshops are for us all to share our experience and learn from other beekeepers, so please come along and support them.

Pat Morgan

Middlesex Federation Disease Recognition Day

Saturday 21st May, 10am-4pm at Broomfield School, Wilmer Way, N14 7HY.

Led by Diane Steele, Regional Bee Inspector & Seasonal Inspectors.

The day will cover brood diseases, pathogens, pests, varroa populations and new threats to our bees. There will be a mix of lectures and round table demonstration of diseased frames and other specimens. It will be a great opportunity to see the scales of AFB, rare but so important to identify if present, as well, as other disease patterns 'in the flesh'. The venue is quite easy to get to for Barnet members with good parking, but car sharing is always worthwhile. HIGHLY recommended. To book a place email me patam48@aol.com.

Pat Morgan

New Season - New Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors

As we look forward to the 2016 season, we shall welcome new APHA/NBU Bee Inspectors. Diane Steele takes over the South East region with the departure of Julian Parker to the Southern region. Diane formerly served as SBI in West Sussex and West Surrey and we will have an opportunity to meet her at the up-coming Disease Recognition Day in May (details above). The position of SBI for our area is also vacant as we say farewell to Caroline Washington, who is standing down. Caroline has been helping beekeepers keep their colonies healthy since 2003 and when I spoke to Caroline at the Federation Day, she was looking forward to enjoying a much more relaxing summer in 2016. We wish her and her bees well.



Steve Leveridge

Diary Dates

5 March - BeeTradex

The year's first great get-together for beekeepers and only £4 to get in. A great place to pick up (at discount prices) all that kit you're going to need for swarm control this year.

Full details: www.beetradex.co.uk

13 March - Bee Improvement for All - Epping Beekeepers

An all-day event in association with BIBBA, to encourage and enable all beekeepers to learn simple methods to assess and improve their bees. Full details see their newsletter:

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/EFBKA-January-2016.pdf

2nd April - Herts BKA Spring Convention

Head up to Welwyn to meet some of our beekeeping neighbours and speakers, a trade show and even at honey tasting competition. Full details: www.hertsbees.blogspot.co.uk/2016/02/a-hertfordshire-event-not-to-be-missed.html

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