



## Annual General Meeting & Christmas Social

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Ealing and District Beekeepers Association will be held at the Johnson Hall, Greenford Community Centre, 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford UB6 9JS, at 2pm on Saturday 12th December 2009. To be followed by our Christmas Social

Andy Pedley  
Hon., Sec.

## Local Food: an Open Space event

On Saturday 21st November 2009 Ealing Transitions will be holding their first major event entitled **Local Food: Setting the Agenda for Ealing's Food Future.**



Addressing issues such as seasonal produce, food miles, growing, environmental sustainability, food security and more.

The event will be held at St Mary's Church Hall and will run from 10.30am-4pm approx, with speakers from the cutting edge of food policy, some inspiring local stories, and even some local food to eat.

It is also your opportunity to have your say, and to start creating a healthy and sustainable food future. We will use Open Space, a method designed to ensure you set the agenda you want, and find others who share your interests and concerns in creating positive practical action.

Continued page 2

## From the Web

A couple of interesting things from the web ...

the Sysonby Knoll BeeCam (s) This page has two live cameras, one is looking at the entrance to our observation hive and the other is looking at the bees working inside the hive.



<http://www.sysonby.com/beecam>

And Bees in Art  
<http://www.beesinart.com/>

## And in the Media ...

Then - if you are quick - a piece from BBC I-Player <http://snipurl.com/t7xvg> - with Frances Ratnieks of Sussex University talking about bees communications (if anyone has a recording of this it would be excellent for talks .... ) and I am told that there was a piece on Countryfile recently, which I missed and is not available from Iplayer now. (but if you have a recording .... )

And of course the National Honey Show was the focus of the BBC 4 Radio The Food Programme <http://snipurl.com/t7y2h>

## Membership Renewal

Subs. Are due soon - dont forget £5.00 discount for those pay before 1st Jan.

Paperwork in the post / by email soon

# Ealing Transitions (continued ...)

The event is aimed at everybody - families, policy makers, local businesses, schools - whether you are interested in growing it, selling it, or just eating it!

Full event details are available from <http://www.ealingtransition.org.uk/>.

Places are limited, and to enable planning seating and lunches, so please register in advance that you are going to attend. The event is free but a modest donation on the day to help cover costs would be appreciated.

# Buckingham Palace

On a cold winter's day an email arrived out of the blue from the Garden Manager of Buckingham Palace..."I would like to know if it would be possible to house a hive or two in the gardens here. To this end I wonder if you would be available to meet on



*The first crop of Buckingham Palace Garden Honey being handed over to Mark Flanagan, Royal Chef at Buckingham Palace on*

site to discuss the possibility? We have a number of scheduled areas of the garden that are relatively human free and I would like to show you these for your consideration..."

How could anyone refuse an offer like this? I duly attended after the necessary security details were covered on a day pass, and arrived with a passport and drivers licence - the latter caused some amusement as my driver's licence does not have a photo-

graph of me on it - but all went well. I met with the garden manager in a lovely secluded office tucked away at the back of Buckingham Palace. We had just had the second day of snow in London and everything was a picture in white. We spent a long time talking about the reasons for wanting to keep bees and the Palace was very concerned about the plight of all our pollinators. A plan of action was drawn up to encourage other types of bees in the grounds and I was offered what I consider to be the best site in London for keeping two hives, a secluded island where virtually no-one other than Her Majesty and family visit.

Two months later, when all the necessary security checks had been made and agreements signed, I arrived on two different occasions with a hive each time. These were duly set up on the island. The hives have progressed during the spring and summer, and I have now taken off the first honey crop which has been presented to the Palace. I feel greatly honoured to be in at the start of a wonderful project.

John Chapple

**HONEYBEE EXHIBITION**

15th to 21st November 2009  
at The Cow Byre, Bury St, Ruislip

Sun 10-4pm  
Mon Closed (Private Show)  
Tues & Sat 10-4pm  
Wed, Thurs & Frid 10-9pm

Free Admission

**Discover the Amazing World of Honeybees**

Excellent Talks on  
**'SECRET LIFE OF HONEYBEES'**  
Wed & Thurs: 2pm & 7pm  
Book in advance: 01895 255834 (limited spaces)

plus!!  
Find out what it takes to become a Beekeeper,  
Candle Making & Picture Colouring for Children,  
See a real Beehive (without bees!)  
and much, much more!

Treat yourself to Delicious Honey Cakes, Biscuits,  
Sweets, Recipes & Local Honey

**Pinner & Ruislip Beekeepers Assn.** Registered Charity

Healthy Bees Plan  
Quarterly Newsletter for all those interested in  
honey bee health  
Issue 1 October 2009

Quarterly newsletter on progress with implementing the Healthy Bees Plan ([www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/bees/news/plan.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/growing/bees/news/plan.pdf)) which the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) is implementing on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

### Highlights:

Good progress made over recent months by the Healthy Bees Project Management Board leading to agreed terms of reference, governance and priorities for implementing the Plan.

Education and training work programme skills has been agreed by the Board.

Officers are now implementing the work programme.



2500 additional beekeepers have registered on BeeBase during 2009; of this total some 30% have self-registered (either by logging onto [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com) or by telephoning the National Bee Unit on 01904 462510).

Defra is commissioning a study of beekeeping practices and the support available to both new and experienced beekeepers particularly on husbandry and on pests and diseases. The study will help to throw light on the best ways to provide advice and opinions and experiences are a very

beekeepers from across England and Wales with a focus on those who have been keeping bees for at least two years. *If any beekeepers reading this would be available for a short telephone interview as part of this study, please contact us at [beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk).*

### Further details on the Healthy Bees Project Management Board:

The Board is responsible to Defra and WAG for successful implementation of the Healthy Bees Plan by identifying priorities and by steering and guiding the detailed work required to deliver the Plan. It is chaired by Dr Helen Crews (Fera) and includes

provided by BFA, WBKA, NFU and individual beekeepers. The Scottish Government is an observer.

The Board is supported by three working groups (Husbandry and Education, Communications, and Science and Evidence) whose members include beekeepers and other experts to provide input and challenge to the detailed work of implementing the Plan. Further details of t for implementing the Plan are described in the Implementation Brief (posted on the news pages of [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)).

The Board was [redacted] to withdraw from participating in the Board and in the three working groups. The Board continues to support implementation of the Plan and has reiterated their agreement to the common goals and priorities, particularly on raising husbandry standards through education and training of beekeepers. Fera is continuing to engage with the BBKA and hopes that they will be able to rejoin the Board at some point in the future.

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board will be in December and will review progress with implementing the education and training work programme and the draft communications plan developed by the Healthy Bees Communications Working Group.

### Key priority improving husbandry through education and training:

The Project Management Board has agreed that improving husbandry is a key priority and to help achieve this, we need to improve how we educate and train beekeepers. Good husbandry is vital for successful beekeeping and healthy colonies and also to prevent colonies from acting as a reservoir of pests and disease that may spread to neighbouring apiaries.

The first phase of the husbandry and education work programme was agreed by the Board at its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and covers the next 6 months, as follows:

Completion and publication of the leaf advisory leaflets and other training products covering

series will be developed during 2010/11.

[redacted] -shows organised and run by local bee inspectors to promote good beekeeping practice with a particular focus on Varroa management and on attracting beekeepers who are new to the craft and/or not members of local associations. To be run in winter 2009/10.

(As a first step towards raising standards) making available and funding formally recognised [redacted] s to interested beekeepers who regularly deliver training to other beekeepers. To cover effective skills for delivering practical as well as theoretical training. Similar courses will also be available to bee inspectors.

Development of proposals on audiovisual aids for consideration by the Board and their decision on whether/how to proceed with these as part of the education and training work programme.

Reviewing the practicality and cost implications of establishing regional training apiaries and producing advice to the Board to consider whether to proceed with these as part of the education and training work programme.

Proposals on the next phase of the husbandry and education work programme (April 2010 to March 2011) will be considered by the Board in early 2010.

## BeeBase

Good news that more beekeepers are registering on BeeBase - 2500 additional beekeepers during 2009. The total number of beekeepers registered is nearly 18,700.

Most beekeepers recognise and appreciate BeeBase as an essential beekeeping resource to which they have free access to help them keep healthy bees. But it is much more than that – information it contains on the location of apiaries is vital for Bee Inspectors in their work to control disease and to sustain the health of our honey bee colonies. By knowing where the bees are we stand a much better chance of controlling disease and containing any incursion of new pests – hence the importance that the NBU attaches to registration of beekeepers.

If anyone reading this Newsletter would like to help encourage beekeepers to register on BeeBase, such as including the BeeBase address ([www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)) on your own websites or publicity material, the Healthy Bees Project Manager would be delighted to hear from you. Contact details below.

## Study of beekeeping practices

Defra is commissioning a study due to start in November to better understand husbandry practices and approaches to managing pests and diseases, and how these practices are influenced by external information and advice. Beekeepers' opinions and experiences are a very important part of the study. A particular focus of the study is to help to throw light on the best ways to provide advice and deliver training to beekeepers. Results are due to be available at the end of March 2010.

Defra would like to gather views from beekeepers across England and Wales with a focus on those who have been keeping bees for at least two years. If any beekeepers reading this would be available for a short telephone interview as part of this study, please contact [beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk). Interviews will take place in January and February. Depending on the scale of response from the beekeeping community, you may not be contacted but we would very much like people to be involved, so please do get in touch.

## Random Apiary Survey

The NBU is conducting a Random Apiary Survey. The aim is for the Bee Inspectors to survey a total of 5000 apiaries across England and Wales during 2009 and 2010. Some 1500 apiaries have been surveyed to date. We are very grateful to all those beekeepers who have already taken part. During 2010, 1000 of the apiaries to be included in the survey will belong to newly registered beekeepers.

The purpose of the Survey is to investigate the national incidence of the full range of bee diseases, and to investigate factors which potentially affect disease incidence. Samples will be stored for future use, in the event that we need to investigate emerging or new diseases. By aiming for 5000 apiaries, we stand a good chance of achieving a satisfactory sample size and an accurate picture of disease incidence. The results will provide the basis for refining statutory inspections and surveillance programmes from 2011 onwards, and for targeting advice and training at a local level.

## Strengthened surveillance - 39,000 colonies inspected this season

The number of Bee Inspectors has increased from 45 to 63 during 2009 and, as a result, over 39,000 colonies have been inspected this year which is the highest since 1988.

The main focus of this strengthened surveillance activity is on controlling statutory notifiable bee diseases, and for this year (and next), an additional element has been the Random Apiary Survey (accounting for 1500 of the 39,000 colonies inspected). This increased coverage of apiaries is providing the NBU with an excellent basis for identifying local/regional issues and for directing further effort (eg, on education and training).

Inspection visits remain free of charge and also continue to include 1:1 training of beekeepers.

## Upcoming key activities

4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Healthy Bees Project Management Board in December.

Pilot road-shows during winter 2009/10 on promoting good beekeeping practice with particular focus on Varroa management.

Defra-funded study of beekeeping practices due to interview beekeepers in January and February 2010.

~~The Healthy Bees Project Team is happy to receive feedback and comments~~

Healthy Bees Project Manager  
Fera, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ, UK

28 October 2009\_1

[beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beehealthinfo@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

Fera is an Executive Agency of Defra

## Special offers on bulk purchases from BBKA Enterprises Limited

### The 2010 BBKA Calendar

BBKA Calendars in bulk for onward sale to members.

We can supply a minimum order of 10 calendars at £6.00 each plus carriage (normally £7.99 plus £1.00 p&p) to include the protective card envelope.

### The Healthy Hive© Guide

Awarded a Gold Medal at Apimondia in September this new 48 page book offers a

unique educational resource to new and improving beekeepers.

Available now and boxed in 20's at the special price to Associations of £8.00 each book (a mailing carton is available at £1.00 each) plus carriage or collection from NBU. The H/H Guide normally re-tails at £10.85 plus £2.00 p&p.

Take advantage of these special offers and email orders to the NBC at Stoneleigh.  
Email: [bbka@britishbeekeepers.com](mailto:bbka@britishbeekeepers.com)

Roger Cullum-Kenyon

BBKA Enterprises Ltd.

The Royal Veterinary College,  
Hawkshead Lane,  
North Mymms,  
Hatfield,  
Hertfordshire.  
AL9 7TA

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a third year student at the Royal Veterinary College in Hertfordshire and I am currently undertaking a short study on bee husbandry. I am increasingly aware of the need for more research in the field of apiculture and for vets to have a sound working knowledge of bees. With this project I am hoping to collect important information regarding factors determining the behaviour and health of bees and their colonies in the UK.

I am writing to ask whether you would be able to assist with the study by completing the short questionnaire which is enclosed on the following page of this letter. The questionnaire will help to gather key information for the study and I would be very grateful if you would be able to take a little time to complete it and return at your earliest convenience either by post to the above address or via email to [jmay@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:jmay@rvc.ac.uk). I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the information that you provide will be strictly confidential and will be used only for the purposes of this project.

I would be grateful for any assistance that you are able to give and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica May  
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Science

Enc

You can download this from <http://snipurl.com/t7zix> complete it on screen and email direct.

**Questionnaire:**

1. How many colonies or hives of bees do you keep?.....

2. What is the location of the hives? For example, urban, moorland, etc: .....  
.....

3. Are there any local factors in the area where your hives are kept? For example, telephone masts, major roads, electricity pylons/wires, other apiaries, etc? Please give details:

Description.....  
Quantity of above .....  
Please estimate distance from hives:.....

4. Have you noticed any changes in colony characteristics over recent years?  
YES / NO

If yes, please give further details:  
.....  
.....  
.....

5. Have any hives experienced a recent increase in bee mortality? YES/NO

If yes, please give further details: .....  
.....  
.....

6. Have there been any changes in bee behaviour in recent years? .....  
.....  
.....

7. Have any colonies experienced a greater incidence of disease than seen previously? YES / NO .....

If yes, please specify which diseases and how the diagnosis was confirmed:.....  
.....  
.....

8. Please give details of any other points of interest regarding the care and health of your bees during the past few years: .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Thank you very much for your time and assistance.

The Federation of Middlesex Beekeepers'  
Associations

# Bee Keepers' Day

Saturday 27th February 2010

**Broomfield School. Wilmer Way, SOUTHGATE  
N14 7HY**

10.00 am Welcome with coffee/tea on arrival.

10.30 am. **Dr. Beulah Cullen NDB**  
Member of Examinations Board to BBKA  
Secretary to Bucks BKA  
**'How doth the busy little bee'**

12.00 **Terry Clare**  
Chairman of BIBBA  
Exam secretary to Medway BKA  
**'A cooperative approach to bee conservation and  
improvement'**

1.15 pm *Lunch:*  
Refreshments will be available at a modest price.  
Sandwiches, cake, fruit.  
Bees on site for those who wish to view them.

2.15 pm **Clive Cohen**  
A 'lifetimes' experienced beekeeper  
**'Swarm collection'**

3.30 pm The Annual General meeting will follow  
Admission: £6 at the door

Broomfield school can be found just off the north circular road. Follow the signs Southgate.( A1004) The entrance to the school is on the right about 100m. Car parking available. The nearest tube station is Arnos Grove on the Piccadilly line.