



# The Beehive

July 2017



## Key dates

1 July and every Saturday following Apiary Meeting: Winterbourne (10am) and Highbury Park (2pm)

19 July 12 noon Wednesday Lunch: The Village, Alcester Road, Moseley, B13 8JR The Village Website Bdbka.socsec@aol.com / 0121 444 4005 Birmingham

28 July 7pm Friday Social: Skittles Evening - £10 per person with buffet. Selly Park Tavern. Limited places- contact Diana Phillips to book. 0121 444 4005 bdbka.socsec@aol.com

12 August 10am Honey Extraction Day: With Noel Parker, Winterbourne Apiary. One super per member.

A gift for members! Samantha Walker (star contributor to this edition— see her amazing weekend of all things bee article overleaf) has shared her colony record sheet—**attached**. **You'll need to update the SP grid reference and apiary address but otherwise it's yours to use.** One page has a deeper line space for larger handwriting.

## Rare bee colony destroyed by council pest control

Council pest controllers in Anglesey are being investigated after destroying a colony of 15,000 Welsh black bees, the last known survivor of the original British bee

In Britain, southern European honeybees filled the void after the native honeybee was practically wiped out by a virus 100 years ago. The Welsh Black Bee is almost completely black and is the last known survivor of the original British bee.

Black bees are darker and have thicker, longer hair and a larger body than the golden-coloured, southern European bee, which allows them to keep warm the generally cooler and more changeable British climate.

The Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association began a project to conserve the last remaining black bees in 1997.

It is estimated of the 250,000 hives across the UK, less than one per cent are likely to house black bees.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4658770/Council-pest-controllers-wipe-15-000-rare-honeybees.html#ixzz4lnrifGz9>

Having updated on Winterbourne an issue or so ago, here is an update from John Madgwick on Highbury:

The first meeting at the apiary was the spring clean this was well attended mostly by members with no hive there and the grass and weeds were cut and raked up even without the hive owners.

The disease check was the first meeting at the apiary hives were all checked and no problems were found, but it was hard work as most of the hive owners were not there and they did not send somebody to take their place, so the rest of us had to do it for them and go into their hives without their permission.

We also had a tree trim to let more light in to the hives, it was well attended but the hive owners were missing again. I would like to remind the hive owners that they are expected to attend these meetings as the work is for their benefit.

The next meeting will be the varroa check and treatment and the hives are all treated at the same time. All hive owners are expected to attend or ask another member to do it for them and as I am still owed payment for treatment to hives for the last two years I will not treat the hives of absent members, and they will be asked to remove their hives.

## CONTACTS

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# An amazing weekend of all things bee!

By Sam Walker



Photo of Bumblebee nest from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust at Chatsworth RHS

## Walking Pollinators Workshop

I really wished to learn more about other species of bee as when swarm collecting it would be lovely to give some information. On seeing the 'Walking Pollinators Workshop' at Moseley Bog on Saturday 10th June (as advertised in the last edition of *The Beehive*) I thought it would be a great place to start.

Our guided walk was with Entomologist Steven Falks, (one of the **UK's leading experts on bees**). This was an amazing event! Steven Falk was so inspiring, with a tremendous wealth of knowledge on the whole environment surrounding the pollinators, and how they interact with each other, and their habitats. I came away with such admiration for our local nature reserve and within an hour and a half we had spotted 9 of the 25 species of bumble bee in the UK, without venturing very far into Moseley Bog. Simply wonderful, I even had the opportunity to stroke a bumble bee and have a hoverfly held to my ear to hear its buzz close up.

## Beyond the Basic - Practical

On attending the beautiful Solihull Apiary for the practical part of the Beyond the Basic Course, an extremely interesting day was had by all.

The different manipulations of the hive were made so much more **familiar by physically doing them rather than reading 'How to...'** in a book.

While practising our queen marking skills on drones we marvelled at how a decoy queen had sneaked out of the hive we were painting them, to be found in another hive 5 minutes after the paint was added!

A massive Thank you to Celia Davies, Jane Medwell, Andrew and Noel Parker (& anyone else I may have missed) for organising the event.

Wicker Honeybee sculpture.  
Photo courtesy of Liz Sparks



## Chatsworth RHS

The BBKA dome tent was full of amazing bee related information and installations, housing an observation hive, the different types of hive (including The Flow Hive), The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Bee Microscopy with pollen and honeybee anatomy slides set up on the microscopes, and some of the beautiful sculptures of pollen grains by Jo Golesworthy.



Dandelion Pollen Sculpture  
by Jo Golesworthy

The Derbyshire Beekeeping Association made £1300 on each of the first two days on honey sales alone! And also the make a bug hotel for a donation sold out! (400 were made and taken home to find tenants!)

Was so lovely to spend the day skep-making and I had quite a few people ask whether they could purchase my skep too!

**It's really important to help out at events and such a brilliant way to network-** meeting new people from other branches and organisations. And also a great way to gain free entry to some amazing places too.

## Kent beehives destroyed in Arson attacks

From the BBC

A large number of bees were killed and more than two dozen hives were destroyed by fire in separate attacks.

A farm in the village of Sellindge in Kent found 26 hives had been burnt out and others stolen.

It is an attack thought to be linked to the theft of two hives from another farm nearby.

PC Daniel Mills from Kent Police said: "This damage is not only cruel but detrimental to the beekeepers who will suffer a financial loss." A large number of bees were killed in the attacks, a police spokesman said.

Police have advised beekeepers to camouflage the hives behind hedges or tall fences or to paint them a muted colour. They also suggested apiarists keep their hives out of view from main roads.

## Bee-friendly plants

Sam Walker has found a useful list of bee friendly plants found on the [Planting for Honeybees website](https://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/gardening_for_bees) linked from BBKA website: [https://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/gardening\\_for\\_bees](https://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/gardening_for_bees)

BBC Gardeners' World has also covered this topic on June 30th— take a look at episode 15 on iPlayer (it's around half-way through)

Please also take part in the National Botanic Garden of Wales' Honey Survey 2017, mentioned on the show.

They would like approximately 30ml of honey from a single hive collected in 2017. This sampling will feed into our wider study, and if successful the individual results of the flowers your honey bees have foraged on will be sent to you. Find the survey attached!