



---

## Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

---

### Volunteer Stewarding Opportunities at our Summer Displays

We have public displays over three consecutive weekends in June and are still looking for volunteers to promote our craft at the following :-

**10<sup>TH</sup> June – Kenilworth Show**

**17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June – Leamington Peace Festival**

For the Kenilworth Show we need help not only on the Show Day itself to man the stand for each of the three shifts:- 9.00a.m.- 12.00p.m.; 12.00p.m. – 2.30p.m.; 2.30p.m. – 5.00p.m. but particularly could also do with some support on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** to help with the set up. We start loading up at our Dalehouse Lane apiary at 2.00p.m. on the Friday afternoon and as the showground is only a mile or so away, should be done erecting the marquees by about 4.00p.m. So, if you can possibly spare a couple of hours on either the Friday or the Saturday, please let me know either by completing the form at the following link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDmORVxhiNEF7vjPd14pLhUerrcwrlY9O5TlqYKlb0CkRYIQ/viewform> (preferred) or by e-mailing me at [bernardnbrown@aol.com](mailto:bernardnbrown@aol.com) or by telephoning 01926843416

The link to volunteer for the Leamington Peace Festival is:-

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsr2Mrgid4LxWgZaCnu6vnkJgoB\\_1wxY9seCS2D-ru3XiVg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsr2Mrgid4LxWgZaCnu6vnkJgoB_1wxY9seCS2D-ru3XiVg/viewform)

Both these links can be found on our website.

Helping on the stand is great fun and involves sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm with the public whilst making sales of honey and wax products, demonstrating various aspects of beekeeping and answering queries from the public. This is well within the capabilities of anyone who has been on our introductory course. Volunteering for a couple of hours on our stand entitles you to free admission to the show and as we arrange our stewarding in shifts, there is time to sample the wider delights of the event should you so wish.

Bernard Brown

### Hive Products Sales Opportunity

We have two shows coming up this month - **10<sup>TH</sup> June – Kenilworth Show and 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June – Leamington Peace Festival** - and, as usual, we are offering to sell members' honey and hive products on our stand on a sale or return basis. This is quite a useful opportunity for producers of small quantities and is all part of the encouragement and support offered by the branch. We like to have a range of products and suppliers forming our display as customers often favour suppliers local to where they live. We do endeavour to give each supplier's products equal exposure on our stand and our volunteers try not to favour one supplier over another when promoting sales.

We will be selling clear and set honey at £5, £4, and £3 for 1lb, 12oz and 8oz jars respectively with a 50p premium added for speciality honey - heather, borage, lavender and ivy etc.

Please note a 10% levy for branch funds will be deducted from sales which will be waived for those suppliers who volunteer to help on our stand at the event.

We have a good idea of the sales of individual products we can expect to make at these events and need to source supplies accordingly. To this end, if members wishing to take advantage of this opportunity would contact Gill Grimshaw ([gill@gillgrimshaw.co.uk](mailto:gill@gillgrimshaw.co.uk)) for wax products or Di Hetherington ([dihethers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dihethers@yahoo.co.uk)) for honey at least 7 days before the event., we will confirm back to you the supplies required and delivery arrangements.

Naturally, all products need to comply with relevant legal standards, as does the labelling. Products also need to be of merchantable quality. In the case of any doubt on these scores the stand organiser will decide.

Bernard Brown

## Registration with Bee Base

As a Branch, we would encourage all members to register your apiaries with Bee Base as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. This will give you early warning of disease outbreaks in the area or, perish the thought, any enhancement of the risk from pests such as the asian hornet and small hive beetle.

To Register go to <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm> and follow the instructions. If you need grid references to identify the location of your apiary these are displayed if you hover your mouse over the location in Google Earth.

## Volunteers required to staff the BBKA "Swarm Line"

The administrative staff at the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) Headquarters are inundated with the calls during the swarming season and are constantly being interrupted in their work. They would welcome assistance again this year from Warwickshire members in dealing with these calls ('Swarmline').

To do this we require volunteers who would be prepared to spend a half day, morning or afternoon, sitting at BBKA HQ taking telephone calls from the general public and advising accordingly. There is a folder kept at BBKA that advises on the procedure.

The calendar is set up on the Warwick and Leamington branch website from Monday, 8th May to Friday 7th July. Go to the home page of the website, click on the swarmline calendar on the right hand side and follow the instructions. Identify a date and time and then let me know your choice – [peterstanworth@btinternet.com](mailto:peterstanworth@btinternet.com) or Chris Cox - [secretary@warleambees.org.uk](mailto:secretary@warleambees.org.uk) and we will make an entry in the diary.

Please do volunteer if you feel that you have the time. Even if you are working take a relaxing morning or afternoon off! We have 260 members and if each covered one session we would have the whole period filled.

Our experience in the past has been that it has been interesting and good fun. The BBKA staff are very grateful for our assistance and it will go some way in thanking them for the help in return that they freely give to us.

Peter Stanworth  
April 2017

## A Bargain

Apifuge is a harmless but effective bee repellent spray commonly used for the quick inspection of bees and is particularly useful at this time of the year.

After recovering a swarm many bees will attempt to return to their original settling place and spraying the foliage for example discourages them from resettling. This can be particularly helpful when collecting casts as they may lack the gathering focus of a prime swarm. A number of casts that have emerged from a single hive and are scattered over a hedgerow for example can be particularly awkward to deal with and where use of a repellent is helpful.

It is for these reasons we have been stocking Apifuge. We have a few cans past their use by date but from recent personal experience know they remain effective.

They are available from our coop purchasing stock for only £5.00 a can compared to £9.98 on the Thornes website and to which has to be added carriage costs.

My advice is get your order in quickly whilst we still have a few left.

Mike Townsend  
Branch purchasing coop member

## Do you remember that feeling of excitement and wonder at your first encounter with live bees?

Well that is what has put the grins on the faces of the delegates on our May Taster Day in the above photo. Held at BBKA HQ, the visit to the BBKA apiary followed a morning of finding out where bees can be kept, the equipment required, the cost and time involved, what the beekeeper has to do throughout the year and what to do next to become a bee keeper but in spite of all that, two delegates actually joined that evening and we have had half a dozen express an interest in the 2018 Introductory Course. Further Taster Days are planned for 28<sup>th</sup> June at Charlecote Park and 10<sup>th</sup> September back at BBKA so please spread the word amongst friends, neighbours and work colleagues. We are holding the cost at £25 for the second year and enrolment is via the links on our website. Gift certificates are available for either event.



## FOR SALE ( Leamington ) All British National

2 LARGE BROOD BOXES  
2 LARGE DUMMY BOARDS  
4 FRAMES  
4 SHEETS OF WAX FOUNDATION

Used - but in good condition - £50 the lot or will split. Any reasonable offer considered.

JANE TRAYNOR: Tel: 01926 425963 Mob: 07512 859014

## Hints and Tips

On average rape honey will granulate within 10 days of being sealed in the comb. So watch out for when the yellow flowers fade and harvest it as soon as possible. As you extract your honey don't forget to think about the Honey Shows and save some of the good looking jars for entering. It's really useful to get expert opinion on your produce. This year the Branch Honey Show has a class for wax candles so keep the wax cappings separate, as they are the best for making the candles and wax blocks.

Beware the 'June gap'! In some parts of the countryside there is a lull between the dandelion and blossom crops of spring and the big tree flowers such as horse chestnut in July, and bees may even need feeding. However this should not be of concern to you if your bees are visiting domestic gardens, as there is a wealth of forage to be had.

Monitor for signs of robbing from weaker colonies and, if necessary, re-introduce the entrance block.

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to [h.essex@virgin.net](mailto:h.essex@virgin.net)...

Thank you Helen Essex

Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is [roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk](mailto:roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk) or hard copy can be posted to him at:

12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by May 27<sup>th</sup> latest.**

Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

**BeeTalk is:** Designed, produced, printed and distributed by Roger Wilkes

Warwick and Leamington Branch  
of Warwickshire Beekeepers Association  
Reg Charity No. 500276 [www.warleambees.org.uk](http://www.warleambees.org.uk)